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# KERPLUNK!

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# Where to after opening loss?

By Roy Hay

**Before the match the German coach Joachim Low said that his team would exploit the lack of pace in the Australian defence by getting wide players behind the backs and crossing quickly for the strikers to finish.**

That is what happened.

Though individual mistakes could be pinpointed, the German tactical plan worked and the Australian one did not.

Tim Cahill has played as an advanced sole striker for Everton and with some success but that role negates some of his real advantages, especially the ability to make late runs into the box to attack crosses.

He does not have the physical ability to hold the ball up and bring the player or players behind him into the game with short passes.

Mark Viduka found that extraordinarily difficult at top level, and he had a much bigger backside than Cahill.

His sending off was harsh but referees are under instruction to cut out the sliding tackle from behind and in his enthusiasm and frustration that is what Cahill perpetrated.

Pim Verbeek has persisted with the single striker formation though Australia does not have the player to perform that role.

There are plenty of players who can play off the leading one, but none that is comfortable in the solo position.

Even quick lateral movement is easy to negate with the German's zonal system, which Kevin Muscat quickly identified within moments of the start of the game.

The defence does not chase the striker but simply passes him on from man to man.

This is relatively easy and less enervating, particularly if there is a question mark about the speed and mobility of the central pair of defenders, who can be caught out if required to turn frequently.

Australia started with a flurry, but once the Germans found their feet and formation it was clear that they were going to dominate possession.

Ned Zelic said that the Australian mid-

fielders were pulled from side to side, which was true, but was partly the result of the fact that they were nearly always faced by opponents who were coming forward with the ball under control and with options on both sides.

Had the midfield played higher up the field they might have restricted the Germans ability to play out from the back, but then would have run the risk of the ball over the top to the lethal front trio of Podolski, Klose and Ozil.

Given the lack of pace in central defence this would have been a high-risk strategy.

Going forward Australia found it hard to develop combination movements, though when they did so, especially when the wide players got involved, they looked more threatening.

Against Ghana it is going to be critical for the Wilshire-Emerton and Chipperfield-Garcia links to work smoothly.

If Verbeek persists with a single striker it is hardly going to be sensible to use Harry Kewell in that role, which only leaves Josh Kennedy or the inexperienced Rukavytsya, neither of whom quite fits.

Kennedy will win the ball in the air and Kewell could feed off that, while Rukavytsya is fast, mobile and not well known.

In defence against the Ghanaians there is a case for Michael Beauchamp since both Lucas Neill and Craig Moore are on yellow cards and will be exposed for pace.

But the coach is likely to stick with both incumbents.

It has been argued that whatever Australians lack in skill they compensate for by resilience and fighting spirit and determination to succeed.

They will need all these qualities in the remaining two matches, but while it is too late to throw the planning of the last few years out of the window, it is not clear that the current tactical plan gives them the best chance of success.

To beat Ghana and Serbia would be huge achievement, though perhaps that is less daunting than expecting to beat Germany in the opening game.



Tower of strength: Arne Friedrich displays the power of Germany as Nikita Rukavytsya buckles under the challenge. PHOTO: SMP IMAGES

# 1460 Days Older?

By Bruno Zovko

**You know you're in trouble when the defenders consistently raise their arm in hope for an off-side call, especially so early on in a match. It means one thing, the Germans are getting behind the defence and the 1460 days older legs cannot keep up. Maybe I'm being too harsh, the Germans were awesome, ruthless in attack, and they made us look slow. Quick and efficient ball movement will make any team look slow.**

There will be much discussion about the four nil thumping, and the media will be gunning for Pim. The truth of the matter is that the cattle isn't as good as four years ago, and our opponent is craftier than our Asian counterparts - well actually they are World Cup contenders', and they exploited our weaknesses which our Asian rivals couldn't or should say did not have the capacity to do.

To be fair on Pim I thought starting Garcia and Cahill was an enterprising move, two quick players that can inflict damage on the counter, unfortunately the ball never got there. Culina on the left

covering the captain Lahm was a good blocking move, and it worked. The Aussies looked good early on; Pims change in philosophy was refreshing, a gutsy move to become more attack orientated. Garcia had a half chance and if it went in who knows what could have been? The Germans got the early goal thru Podolski followed by Klose, both who have only managed to score five goals between them in the Bundesliga this season.

After the break the Socceroos looked settled, then tragedy, Cahill got a dubious straight red and the landslide began, everything was falling in place for the Germans.

We shouldn't be so hard on the Socceroo's, an early goal by the Germans gave them the confidence to ask the question once again how far can this German team go? It's easy to bag the Socceroos but the next two games will reveal the true strength of character. Kudos to Luke Wilshire for a great performance.

Les Murry said at the end of the night "They beat us four nil back in 74" and would have we learnt since?" Answer, we played one of the favourites with a weakened squad with ten men. Hopefully it's just one of those nights.

# Ouch! Blitzkrieg Destroys the Soccerpoos

By Con Stamocostas

Pim Verbeek took a gamble on his conservative side and doubled it up. Forget the lone striker Pim technically went with a 442 with Tim Cahill and Richard Garcia up front. But really it was a team with seven players in defence and three players in attack.

With three defensive midfielders in the side, Harry Kewell Mark Breciano and Josh Kennedy were left on the bench and stayed there.

Pim Verbeek will no doubt cop it from the fans and media for the personal and tactical decisions he made. And so he should, No team in this World Cup will play with such conservative tactics. Three defensive midfielders there to screen the defence were opened up with ease. At times the Germans had the choice of going in behind, wide or through the middle of our ageing defence and did it with ease and with regularity.

Everything that can go wrong did go wrong for the Aussies.. Early in the second half Tim Cahill got sent off for

a challenge that did not deserve a red card but the well kempt Mexican referee thought otherwise.

This was a nightmare for any Socceroo fan. After a bright start that led to a Tim Cahill header almost being hooked in from the rebound by Richard Garcia it all turned pear shaped. Germany scores the opener after 10 minutes. Lucas Neill was playing the offside trap by himself. The Fanatics had a chant pre-game that was "Where's your Ballack ?, where's your Ballack?" sung to the Basement Jaxx tune "Where's your head at?" And the answer was the German midfielder Mezt Ozil. He destroyed Australia. The German fans where also heard to sing "Where's your defence at?"

So 2-0 after 25 minutes the Germans pre-match talk of destroying Australia was not arrogance it was a warning. Brett Emerton was Australia's best player and Brett Holman who replaced Vince Grella at half time also played ok.

It's not a hopeless situation but it is close to it. Two goals in the second half made the final score 4-0 to Germany and Aus-

tralia now face Ghana without Tim Cahill. Ghana played well against Serbia to win 1-0 in the earlier game and newspaper and football pundits will be saying Australia has an uphill battle to make the second round as this result means that Australia will need to beat both Ghana and Serbia.

Ghana was without Sulley Muntari and Stephn Appia from the start of the game against Serbia yet still played very well. They have a team that looks quick and skilful something that the Socceroos are not. The Germans can be considered favourites for the World Cup after that performance while the Socceroos will struggle to score or get a point based on theirs.

But like the cliché goes tomorrow is the next day of the rest of your life, or is it today is the worst day of the rest of your life?, Anyway we got a few days to sulk and point fingers, let's hope Verbeek and the Socceroos can get their shit together for the next game, no pressure boys it's only the World Cup and it can't get any worse can it?









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# The only way is up, says Pignata

**CAPITALISING on football's current momentum and building a larger club membership base is crucial to Wellington Phoenix remaining a force in the game in the long term, says departing club chief executive Tony Pignata.**

The 45-year-old Australian, who has led the Phoenix since their inaugural season in the Hyundai A-League in 2007/08, finishes in his role on Friday having overseen the club's development to become a major player in the New Zealand sporting landscape.

Pignata is proud of the club's achievements to date, with football in New Zealand now "at the crest of a wave" of popularity following the Phoenix's phenomenal success last season and the New Zealand national team's qualification for the World Cup starting this weekend.

Making the Hyundai A-League playoffs every season is now the minimum target for the Phoenix, Pignata says, and ambitions are targeted around winning the premiership sooner rather than later.

But Pignata, who hails from sports-mad Melbourne and will return there this weekend to rejoin his family, stresses there are key factors that underpin those ambitions.

"The club needs to take that next step. Crucial to that is the continued support of the fans - we need people becoming members of the club. The culture here in New Zealand is that fans can sometimes be 'fairweather friends', that is to say they'll only support a team when things are at a high or only intermittently during the season.

"Look at the Aussie rules clubs in Melbourne - many of them have membership numbers in excess of 30,000 people.



Home is where the heart is: After a successful stint as Phoenix CEO Tony Pignata is returning to Melbourne.

(Hyundai A-League club) Melbourne Victory has 20,000 members and that's why they continue to be such a successful club on and off the pitch. Their members support the club, irrespective of whether they go to every game during the season or only a few. We need to have that mindset here."

Phoenix members from last season have a few more days to renew for season 2010/11 before the general public has the chance to pledge support. Renewals to date are extremely promising.

"More than 1000 members have come back onboard so far, which is more than double where we were at the same time last year," says Pignata. "But we need 3000-4000 more members and to be increasing that number every season. If we can get that then it will help the club in

a variety of ways, most notably in terms of going out and attracting top players to come here and thereby enhancing our aims to win the premiership.

"The membership pack this season is fantastic. For example, \$295 for an adult for 15 games is value for money whether you go to eight games, 10 games or all 15. Membership is the lifeblood of the club and we want the club to be around for a long time.

"Our license to participate in the Hyundai A-League for the next five years was ratified by Fifa in Johannesburg a couple of days ago and that's great news. But we don't want to be here for just the next five years - we want to be here for the next 55 years and beyond.

"A large membership base and big crowds are integral to that long-term

ambition. We've shown there's massive support for the club and the game here in New Zealand - the near-sellout at Westpac Stadium for our playoff win against the Newcastle Jets proved that. Now we need to ensure that's happening consistently."

The Phoenix have played a major role in restoring the credibility of football in New Zealand, with the All Whites' participation at the World Cup confirmation of the massive strides made by the code.

"The club and the governing body (New Zealand Football) have to harness the momentum and keep it going," says Pignata. "Momentum can be easily lost, what happened after the 1982 World Cup is proof of that, and the people in charge of the game must drive it to the next level.

"There'll be kids out there now wanting to get out in the backyard and play football. We need those kids to aspire to be playing at the highest levels. As a club we want to see New Zealand talent coming through and hopefully coming to play for the Phoenix and the All Whites."

While there is plenty of work still to be done, Pignata says he leaves the Phoenix in great shape on and off the field.

"It's been an amazing three years and I leave with some terrific memories. I'm staggered when I think back on how far the club and football in New Zealand has come.

"The club will always be part of me wherever I am and whatever I'm doing. The city of Wellington has embraced the Phoenix and the club has great people involved, from administration, players and coaches to the most important people of all - the fans."

## WORLD'S FOURTH LARGEST NATION BACKS AUSTRALIA TO HOST WORLD CUP

**The Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) has come out in support of Australia's bid to host the FIFA World Cup in 2022.**

In what is a significant show of friendship and support between the PSSI and Football Federation Australia (FFA), the backing throws further momentum behind Australia's campaign to host the world's biggest sporting tournament.

Indonesia had initially indicated their desire to formally bid to host the FIFA World Cup. The backing of a key player within the Asian Football Confederation, and also the fourth largest country by population, highlights the strengths of Australia's bid. FFA Chairman Frank Lowy AC, has been leading the Bid Team in South Africa this week, delivering Australia's vision to put on the best World Cup ever, directly to members of FIFA's Executive Committee

"It is with great pleasure that I can tell the world of our support for Australia's bid to host the FIFA World Cup" says PSSI President Nurdin Halid

"The PSSI has developed a strong bond with the FFA and I have seen with my own eyes the dedication and support for



the World Cup amongst the Australian people. We have seen some great scenes of celebration here in South Africa in recent days and I can say with confidence the people of Australia will put on a show second to none.

"Australia is the only continent left not to have hosted the FIFA World Cup. Bringing the tournament to Australia will greatly enhance the development of football across the region and further into

Asia.

"The financial pull of a FIFA World Cup in Asia is also compelling. All of Asia would both enjoy and benefit from a FIFA World Cup in Australia."

FFA Chairman Frank Lowy AC says he welcomes the public support of the PSSI.

"I am grateful to President Halid and the PSSI for this public declaration. Our friendship is strong and to have the back-

ing of the PSSI only serves to reaffirm my belief in our bid and in the excellent tournament and welcome we would give the world in 2022.

"I have been having a busy and productive week in speaking directly to members of FIFA's Executive Committee. I am heartened by the response I am receiving, although there is plenty of work still to do over the coming months.

"Australia kick off their World Cup campaign on Sunday and I know our supporters, both here in South Africa and back home will show FIFA how much they support football and the FIFA World Cup"

The PSSI and FFA signed a landmark agreement earlier this year. Under the five-year deal, FFA will assist the PSSI in the development of coaches, players, referees, grassroots football and women's football and host training visits for Indonesian players, coaches and officials.

A key part of the agreement will see the PSSI assist the FFA to fully integrate into South East Asian football and the ASEAN Football Federation and provide competition for Australian teams at a range of age levels and formats.

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# New VPL League leader

Richmond has taken over top spot on the Victorian Premier League table after defeating Northcote City at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon.

Either side could have clinched all three points in the match that was postponed due to New Zealand training on John Cain in preparation for their clash against the Socceroos.

It was Milos Lujic who scored the winner soon after half time for the Eagles, putting them one point ahead of the Oakleigh Cannons on the table.

Northcote City will also be without new recruit Stuart Nicholson for their next match against Altona Magic, after he received a red card in the 77th minute.

The other match played in the “catch up round” saw the Bentleigh Greens host South Melbourne at Kingston Heath

Soccer Complex on Friday night.

Fernando De Moraes, in his 125th appearance for South Melbourne, scored the winning goal in the 85th minute, giving South Melbourne the much-needed three points.

The ladder standings after 15 rounds sees Richmond on top, with the Oakleigh Cannons just one point behind; Hume City takes third position; and equal on points, Northcote City and the Green Gully Cavaliers round out the top five. The bottom half of the table is a close battle with all seven clubs still in with a chance to make the finals - South Melbourne (16 points), Bentleigh Greens (15), Dandenong Thunder (15), Sunshine George Cross (15), Altona Magic (13), Melbourne Knights (12), and Heidelberg United (12).

Full match reports on page 38 & 39.



Steve Topalovic (Richmond) needs all his pace to get the better of Brad Norton. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

# McKinna for Killie?

**FORMER Central Coast Mariners head coach Lawrie McKinna has held talks with Kilmarnock chairman Michael Johnston about the managerial vacancy at Rugby Park.**

The Scottish Premier League club lost out on its first choice, Blackburn Rovers coach Steve Kean, after baulking at a compensation fee in the region of £200,000.

But chairman Michael Johnston is casting the net wide in the search for a successor to Jimmy Calderwood.

McKinna has been head coach of Central Coast Mariners for the past five years.

However, he has been replaced by former Socceroo Graham Arnold and has taken on the position as the club’s football and commercial operations manager for the 2010–11 season.

“I’ve had a couple of chats with Lawrie,” Johnston told BBC Scotland.

“He was visiting his parents and I gave him the courtesy of speaking to him as he still harbours thoughts of coaching.

“He has a very good record with Central Coast Mariners and is a person who has a broad skill set.

“While he has a lot of positives, there is the aspect that he’s not been involved in Scottish football for a while.”

McKinna, scored 17 goals in 87 league appearances during a four-year spell at Killie before heading to Australia in 1986.

“We have quite a few irons in the fire and are examining various options,” added

Johnston.

“We’re still looking at candidates with more coming out of the woodwork every day and a number from overseas.

“We haven’t offered anyone the post. We thought we had Steve Kean, but Blackburn put a stop to that. We’ve not set a timescale.”

Calderwood left Kilmarnock at the end of the season, saying he was unhappy about the playing budget and the prospect of losing coach Sandy Clark to cut costs.

McKinna faces a formidable field in the race to get settled in the manager’s office.

Kilmarnock’s Scottish Cup hero Paul Wright has declared an interest in managing his former club. The man who scored the winning goal in the 1997 final is currently a youth coach at the club.

Celtic coach Willie McStay, former St Mirren boss Gus MacPherson and Ross County manager Derek Adams have all been linked with the vacancy. However, Adams has confirmed that he is not interested in taking over at Rugby Park.

German World Cup winner Thomas Hassler and former Romanian coach Victor Piturca are also thought to have applied. Hassler, now coaching at Cologne, made more than 100 appearances for Germany, winning the 1990 World Cup and Euro 96, and can boast Juventus, Roma and Borussia Dortmund among his former clubs.



Lawrie McKinna – in the frame to fill the managerial vacancy at Kilmarnock.

# SUSAK JOINS ROAR

Brisbane Roar coach Ange Postecoglou has consolidated his defensive plans for the upcoming Hyundai A-League season following the announcement of a two year contract for versatile defender Milan Susak.

The Sydney-born Susak returns to Australia after finishing two successful seasons playing in the German third division with SpVgg Unterhaching.

The defender joins Brisbane with a strong European football education having also spent five years playing in the Serbian leagues.

A former Adelaide United player, Susak has also tasted action in the Hyundai A-League and the Asian Champions League.

Able to play anywhere across the backline, Susak’s signing provides even more defensive options for Postecoglou.

“Susak give us some great options ... and if you look at the season, there are a lot more games and we’re going to need a strong squad,” Postecoglou said.

“I think he’ll be fighting for a first XI spot but also giving us a lot of depth in the right areas.

“I think he’s the kind of guy who has a real desire to succeed and who’ll do well in the Hyundai A-League.”

And with just under two months until the opening Hyundai A-League match against Gold Coast United, Susak’s name won’t be the last signature added to the squad’s 2010/11 roster.



With an eye on the overseas transfer market, Postecoglou is determined to add another striker to the squad’s attack.

“We have one visa spot left and that’s where we are concentrating,” Postecoglou said.

“We have a few options but I’m not going to rush into that one, I want to get it right.

“We need depth all over the park ... with such a condensed calendar and injuries and fatigue, I want us to have a strong squad.”

## Milan Susak Fact File

**Date of Birth:** January 29, 1984

**Place of Birth:** Fairfield, Sydney

**Height:** 1.83m

**Position:** Centre Back

**Junior Clubs:** Sydney Olympic

**Career:** 2002 – 07 FK Vojvodina

03 – 04 FK Veternik (loan)

06 – 07 FK CSK Pivara (loan)

07 – 08 Adelaide United

08 – 10 SpVgg Unterhaching

# Czech-Mate for Fury as Franz Straka named Head Coach

**The North Queensland Fury have struck the first major blow in the rejuvenation of the A-League club, appointing former Czech captain and coach Franz Straka as Head Coach in what is a massive coup for both the club and Australian football.**

Fury’s Interim CEO Archie Fraser described the announcement as the club’s most significant to date.

“Franz Straka is an outstanding international coach and we are delighted to announce his appointment,” said Fraser. “We were amazed with the quality of the candidates for the position in terms of their qualifications and international experience but Franz was always our first choice. His technical knowledge and passion for the game was what set him apart from the field.”

Affectionately known in Europe as the “Czech Beckenbauer”, Straka enjoyed an illustrious playing career that included 35 international caps for Czechoslovakia and captaining the Sparta Prague side of the 1980’s to multiple domestic titles.

His coaching career has seen him at the helm of clubs in his native Czech Republic, Austria, Greece and Germany, culminating with a brief stint as Czech National Head Coach last year.

“What struck me was the quality of the facilities and the passion of the people involved. It is a very exciting opportunity and I look forward to working together with the staff and players to ensure a successful sea-



son for the Fury,” said Straka.

FFA Technical Director Han Berger, who headed the selection panel, described the appointment as a big step in the development of the A-League. “It was important to secure someone with the highest technical qualifications and Franz Straka’s appointment will not just strengthen the Fury, but the coaching ranks of the entire league.”

Straka is the latest addition to an impressive new-look coaching staff that now includes Football Operations Manager Robbie Middleby, sports and fitness coach Alan McCall (from Celtic Glasgow) and assistant coach Stuart McLaren.

McLaren could barely contain his excitement at the prospect of working with someone of Straka’s experience and reputation.

“I was really encouraged after meeting Franz as our approach to the game is quite similar and to have the chance to learn from someone of his stature and understanding

of the game will be great for the development of the club, the players and me personally,” said McLaren.

“He has already implemented some specific and unusual training methods that I’ve been carrying out with the players and we can’t wait for his arrival in mid-June.”

While Townsville may seem a long way from Prague, Australia’s shores are not foreign to the Czech legend, having toured here with the national team during the 1980s.

But there will be little time to enjoy the warmer climate for Straka with just under two months to prepare for the club’s opening-round match away to Perth on August 6.

Straka doesn’t see this as a hindrance though.

“Eight weeks is more than enough time to have them ready for the season. New players will have to adapt to the climate but I think this will be to our advantage as we will need to be the fittest team in the league to play in these temperatures consistently.”

The Fury currently have 13 players in training while a number of local and international players are being put through their paces with further announcements expected soon.

The first home game will be against Sydney FC on August 14 where he will be reacquainted with former teammate and countryman Vitezslav Lavicka, who coached the Sky Blues to the local double last season.

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# Maradona's Argentina sweats it out



Even though Lionel Messi baffled Nigeria's defenders, Argentina still had to sweat out Diego Maradona's

first World Cup victory as a coach. Gabriel Heinze scored on a diving header in the sixth minute, the only one of seven shots on goal Argentina converted in its 1-0 win Saturday.

Heinze took advantage of weak defense to power in his header from 12 yards off Juan Sebastian Veron's corner kick. After that, it was nothing but missed chances for the Albiceleste. "The team made good moves, but we ended up suffering. That's the law of soccer," Maradona said. "Thank God we won."

The Argentines almost paid for their squandered chances, as the Nigerians gained confidence in the second half. A superstar as a player but a controversial choice as national team coach, Maradona prowled the sideline throughout the match, with hands clasped behind his back. For the first time as Argentina coach, the former captain wore a suit—a stark contrast to the image of him hurling himself, track-suited, into a puddle on the field when Argentina beat Peru last year.



Following Uruguay's 0-0 draw in Cape Town in their opening game of the 2010 World Cup on Friday evening to France, the South Americans appeared to be struggling. For large periods of the match, they under the barrage of French attacks but held on for a point even after Nicolas Lodeiro was sent off late in the second half.

Key striker Diego Forlan was Uruguay's most dangerous player on Friday and the Atletico Madrid striker felt that both teams deserved a point when everything was said and done. "It was a good game for either side. There seemed little danger, but the sending off conditioned the match, he said, according to Diario El Pais. Centre-back Diego Lugano felt that the Celeste need to improve in some areas but thought the team did pretty well as a whole. "There are areas in which we should improve but there are areas in which we did very well," he concluded.



Mexican stopper meanwhile, Rafael Márquez, also defender with FC Barcelona has set his sights on taking three points off France in their next Group A game following their 1-1 draw with the hosts in the opener.

The 31-year-old admitted that the hosts surprised his side by opting to play on the counterattack in the second half and while he said Mexico were fortunate to find the leveller, he declared that they are better prepared to take on bigger teams.

"We had chances to score in the first half



Gabriel Heinze's header gave Argentina a deserved but ultimately hard-fought victory over the Super Eagles in Group B on Saturday.

but did not take them. Luckily we got the equaliser. South Africa surprised us by playing on the counterattack in the second half and when they scored a goal we knew we were going to have more problems, because they had chances, but the goal that I got was lucky to get and valuable," El Mundo Deportivo quote the Barcelona man as stating.

"We hope to get three points against France. We have prepared very well against big teams in the time before the World Cup and we have confidence." Marquez also said he was happy with his midfield position on Javier Aguirre team and criticised the controversial match ball as "uncomfortable" to deal with.

"My position on the field? I know it well. I feel comfortable playing in the pivot," he noted. "It's a little uncomfortable to play with this ball because it moves a lot. For a player it is difficult to calculate the touch because it has a lot of movement."



The Honduran government has approved a work schedule that allows 200,000 public employees time

off the job to watch the national team play in the World Cup in South Africa. The government has urged private enterprises to do the same. Africo Madrid, the government minister in charge of the changes, said Tuesday that employees would not have to begin work until 10 a.m. local time on June 16 when Honduras plays Chile. The match begins early in the morning, Honduran time.

Honduras faces Spain on June 21 and Switzerland on June 25. Matches those days begin in the early afternoon, Honduran time. Employees will be released at

11:30 a.m. Honduras is playing in only its second World Cup. In 1982 it failed to win a match.



With plenty of quality players to draw from, Brazil should be able to get out of a tough World Cup group

that includes Portugal, Ivory Coast and the comparatively unknown threat of North Korea. Brazil coach Dunga, a pragmatist who refuses to bow to reputations, has made this Brazil squad his own in a nation where the entire population wants to select the team for him. His policy is to go to South Africa with 23 players who will come back with the trophy rather than win friends with flashy football.

First up for the five-time champions is a game against the North Koreans at Ellis Park in Johannesburg. The North Koreans beat star-studded Italy at the 1966 World Cup and then led Portugal 3-0 in the quarterfinals before losing 5-3 after a Eusebio-inspired comeback. Dunga has strength throughout his squad, including experienced goalkeeper Julio Cesar, talented defenders Lucio, Maicon and Daniel Alves, midfielder Gilberto Silva and forwards Kaka, Robinho and Luis Fabiano.

Assuming Brazil earns three points from the North Korea game, Dunga should be able to rest some players against Ivory Coast at Soccer City on June 20. he Ivorians have their own talented players, including forwards Didier Drogba and Salomon Kalou, and brothers Yaya and Kolo Toure at the back. But their task has been made tougher since the dismissal of coach Vahid Halilhodzic in February after a quarterfinal loss to Algeria at the Afri-

can Cup of Nations, his first defeat in 24 games. He was replaced by Sven-Goran Eriksson.

Brazil will then face Portugal in Durban and remember, all the players on the field will be speaking the same language. The Portugal squad even has some players who were born in Brazil, such as Deco, Pepe and Liedson but Portugal's most prolific, Cristiano Ronaldo, the 2008 FIFA player of the year will have to step up a gear as often as he did for Manchester United for that encounter. The Portuguese reached the semifinals four years ago, but they struggled to make it to this World Cup, needing to win a playoff after laboring through qualifying. While North Korea is the clear outsider, the other three teams should be fighting over the two qualifying spots for second round.

It's president, Luis Inácio Lula da Silva defended the World Cup squad picked by coach Dunga. However, he singled out one player who might have been included: Ronaldinho. Silva said Tuesday in a radio interview that Ronaldinho "deserved another chance." A free-kick specialist and slick dribbler, Ronaldinho was not called up for the 2007 Copa America roster after saying he was tired. His trajectory with the national team plummeted from that moment. Silva said Ronaldinho is aware that if he was playing to his full potential with club team AC Milan, he would not have been left off the final 23-man Brazil squad.

"Looking at the Brazil squad, Dunga didn't leave anyone off," Silva said on Radio Jangadeira. "There's only one player who deserved another chance, Ronaldinho Gauchó. "Someone at his level, the star that he is, knows that if he were playing as well as he can, nobody would leave him off the team. We know he went a time without playing, was a reserve with Barce-

lona and AC Milan and did not play in the Copa America." Dunga has been criticized for selecting a team of "workers" rather than players with flair such as Ronaldinho. The presence of those creative types did not help Brazil in 2006, when it was knocked out in the quarterfinals by eventual finalist France.



In Pretoria, like typical hotel guests, the Argentine soccer fans sit around eating scrambled eggs, salad and other culinary delights. Nothing strange about that—a

group of men who've come here to watch their beloved team play at the World Cup. But these guys aren't your average cheerleaders. They're known hooligans, or "barras bravas." There are already 60 of them, bunking at the Christian Progressive College, and so far they seem to be enjoying it.

"We are taken care of like kings," said one fan, who, like the rest, refused to give his name or even his nickname. In return, the hooligans have promised to behave, offering to paint the school and do other community service acts while they're in town. They say they have come in peace.

Flags and banners from various Argentine soccer clubs covered the white walls of the large dining hall, along with the blue and white of Argentina's national team. There was also a giant television, but it wasn't turned on. The men living at the school occupy two floors, and hope to add to their numbers in the coming days. The World Cup opens Friday, and Argentina plays its first match on Saturday against Nigeria. Greece and South Korea are also in Group B, but the Argentines are the favorites.

Earlier Monday, 10 Argentine hooligans said to be planning acts of violence at the World Cup were deported to Angola after having been detained at South Africa's main airport. One of them, Andres "Pillín" Bracamonte, was released from jail for lack of evidence on a charge of attempted murder, and a prosecutor and judge allowed him to travel despite being prosecuted for lesser crimes. "Without a judge's order, any Argentine citizen can leave and travel freely," Argentine federal police spokesman Alejandro Farina told the AP.

The "barras bravas" are a force in Argentina, running bars, restaurants and parking areas near stadiums. Their trip to South Africa generated plenty of controversy because of a reported tie with the government of Argentine President Cristina Fernandez. People are also questioning who paid for their trip. Fans need about \$8,000 to travel to South Africa from Buenos Aires, including plane tickets, room and board. At the school, the hooligans are paying about \$11 per day, a price far more bargained than what most fans would be paying. A local police inspector who went to the school to check up on the men, said they have been behaving. "So far, none of them has caused any problems," Makubela said while watching the "barras bravas" finish their breakfast.



# Half-Time Heroes

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# TSIGAN'S TSIGAR

With Mike Lilikakis

## Tsigan Rolls One Up from the South Coast!

In light of the marvellous performance by our QANTAS SOCCEROOS vs a hapless German team, I thought I'd go Rummeniggen through the tips and muck around in the filth of what has been the worst performances by myriad teams, and on the oompa loompa, I decided that lets not worry too much about what happened, and is now firmly entrenched in football lore as Australia's worst performance. Let's rather, navigate through some teams which were indestructable but never won a World Cup. That'll give us some light relief from the hammer roid which is our National team.

### HUNGRY FOR MORE

Take for eggs ample the Mighty Magyars of the 50's.

Their first win against England, a 6-3 thrashing at a packed Wembley Stadium in 1953, marked England's first loss on English soil against non-British opposition since 1901. Not that outsiders or wogs count as opposition. Prolific Hungary striker Nandor Hidegkuti scored a hat-trick and Captain Marvelous Ferenc Puskas added a double in a display that made the football world stand up and take notice.

The proud England side, thinking the loss was a fluke, suffered a further blow in the return fixture in May the following year - Hungary recording a 7-1 win, which remains England's worst defeat in history. Seriously, suffering in their jocks. 2 World Wars and one world cup, doo da doo dah...but the best they can muster is Yorkshire pudding.

Hungary took their blistering form to Switzerland for the 1954 World Cup, starting with a record 9-0 win over a hapless South Korea side and an 8-3 victory over an under-strength West Germany during the group stages.

On July 4, 1954, around 60,000 people squished into the Wankdorf Stadium ah hahahaha seriously, Wankdorf (ahem) in Berne for



Puskas leads out Hungary against Billy Wright's England

the World Cup final between the amateur West Germany side who copped an 8-3 shallacking and the Mighty Magyars. Perish the thought that ze Germans reckoned they had no chance. West Germany seemed all but out of the equation as Hungary was 2-0 after just eight minutes. I characteristic German uber hauff they fought back and goals in the 10th and 18th minutes drew them level. ACHTUNG BABY!

Perfect Puskas was carrying an injury, and Hungary squandered several great chances to snatch the lead back before West Germany striker Helmut Mein Ziggerpumpink Rahn completed the now characteristic comeback banging the winner six minutes from time.

The 1954 final effectively signalled the end of the Mighty Magyars, as with the 1956 revolution in Budapest against the USSR muppet regime having a diabolical effect on football and life in general for Hungarians. While they never claimed football's ultimate prize, the Mighty Magyars have gone down in history as one of the best and most entertaining football teams of all time and the names of Puskas, Hidegkuti and Kocsis are synonymous with a style of football never to be seen again in this sponsor mad money making whore called FIFA.

### TOTAL FOOTBALL

Hole Land finally came out of the wilderness in the 1970s with the invention of a beautiful 'Clockwork Orange' strip and 'Totaalvoetbal', pioneered by Ajax Amsterdam them all to hell and led by playmaker Johan Cruyff and national team coach Rinus Michels. The Dutch made huge strides, qualifying for two World Cup finals in the decade.

In 1974, the Netherlands beat both Brazil and Argentina in the second group stage, reaching the final for the first time in their history. However, the team lost to West Germany in the final in Munich, despite having gone 1-0 up through Johan Neeskens' early penalty kick before any German had even touched the ball. Due to their saur history, the Dutch were trying to embarrass the Germans at home while they were only up 1-0. This would prove their undoing. Supported by the crowd, a converted penalty by Pau Breitner and the winner from Gerd Müller led to a home victory for the Germans. Despite losing the final and Johan Cruyff had written a new page in football's history.

In 1978, the Netherlands reached again the final of a World Cup only to be beaten anew 3-1 by the host,...a drugged up and

fully militarized Argentina. This side played without Johan Cruyff, who refused to participate in the World Cup due to only being allowed a quota of 3 packets of Marlboros a day.

Renus Michels returned to coach the team for the Euro '88 tournament, in Germany. After losing the first group match against the USSR (1-0), the Netherlands went on to qualify for the semi-final by defeating England 3-1 (with a hat-trick by the tournament's top scorer Marco Van Basten), and EIRE (1-0). For many Dutch football supporters, the most important match in the tournament was the semi-final against West Germany, the host country, considered a revenge for the lost 1974 World Cup final. Van Basten, who would later become national team coach, scored in the 89th minute of the game to sink the German side.

The game is also remembered for its post-match shenanigans, including Ronald Koeman, who, in front of the German supporters, provocatively pretended to wipe his backside with the shirt of Olaf Thon as if it were a roll of toilet paper, an action Koeman later regretted. (apparently) The Netherlands won the final with a convincing victory over the USSR, a rematch on the round robin game, through a header by Ruud Gullit and probably the volley of the century by van Basten. This was the national team's first major tournament win and it restored them to the fore-

front of international football after almost a decade in the wilderness for almost three years to come.

Since then, they have done diddly squat with a few thrid pozzies and regrets. However, the Dutch team went on to secure a 100 percent record in their World Cup 2010 qualification campaign, winning all eight games and becoming the first European team to qualify. Whether or not they underachieve again, is up to them. Otherwise, they can take heart that their country is full of dykes.

Lets look at it hypothetically. If Australia is to qualify for the next round, they have to defeat younger, fitter and stronger teams. Is there hope for us? Should we just revert to part-timers who want to represent the green and gold without worrying about their contracts to Huddersfield, Hull, Swindon and frikkin Galatasaray. If you're not playing top flight, you may as well breed ur own crop and get 'em hungry to perform. I'm not a cynic. Far from it, Neville. I'm an oxymoronic optimistic pessimist. Australia can recover from this, if they wanna grow a pair.

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The Total Master: Johan Cruyff

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TAB

FOX SPORTS





# Double dose of the Germans

By the time you are reading this the Socceroos will have completed their third match against German opposition at the World Cup finals.

In 1974 they played West and East Germany in their qualifying group, losing both matches and failing to score in either. Both matches were played at the Volksparkstadion in Hamburg. On 14 June 1974 the Australians took the field for the first time at the pinnacle of world football with the following line-up. Jack Reilly was in goal with Doug Utjesenovic, Peter Wilson, Manfred Schaefer and Col Curran across the back. In mid-field Ray Richards provided the grunt, Jim Mackay, Jimmy Rooney and Johnny Warren the drive and flair. Adrian 'Noddy' Alston and Branko Buljevic in attack had the tough task of trying to break down an obdurate defence. The East Germans had not lost in their previous dozen games.

The Socceroos were not overawed and held the East Germans scoreless till eleven minutes into the second half. The German crowd of just under 16,000 warmed to the underdog, as Buljevic and Alston manufactured openings but just could not score. Then Juergen Sparwasser sprung the Australian off-side trap and fired past the advancing Reilly. Col Curran raced back to try to clear but only succeeded in getting the last touch before the ball crosses the line. It was a cruel blow to the Socceroos and twelve minutes later Joachim Streich scored a second goal for the East Germans. Their coach, Georg Buschner said he was very impressed with the Socceroos who had 'excellent organization in defence...above average flair in midfield and...occasional attacks which were very dangerous. They are very hard, but fair and they will not "drown" in the remaining matches.' Among the press headlines the next day was 'Dwarves grow ten feet tall'. Rale Rasic buoyant as ever was already looking forward to the next match.

That came only four days later against the hosts and tournament favourites West Germany. The German line-up was



Gerd Mueller's goal against the Socceroos. From left to right: Bernd Hoelzenbein, Mueller, hidden behind Manfred Schaefer, Jack Reilly, Doug Utjesenovic. Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University.

a list of the superstars of the game in the 1970s with only the Dutch of Johann Cruyff matching them for talent spread through the team. Sepp Maier was in goal and Berti Vogts, Georg Schwarzenbeck, 'Kaiser' Franz Beckenbauer and Paul Breitner formed one of the most attacking defensive lines in football history. In front of them Uli Hoeness, Bernd Cullmann Wolfgang Overath, Jupp Heynckes and Juergen Grabowski launched more moves from midfield and 'Der Bomber' Gerd Mueller threatened every time he

got a sight of goal. For Australia, Ernie Campbell replaced Johnny Warren but otherwise the same players started as in the first game.

German-born Manfred Schaefer had been preparing for months for the encounter with Mueller, saying that if he could keep the striker scoreless it would be the greatest achievement of his life, and he nearly did so. The stadium was at capacity with 52,000 crammed in, though other estimates of the crowd vary from 35,000 to 70,000. West Germany got off

pushed back by the sheer weight of the German attacks and Cullmann found space for a free header in 35 minutes. Atti Abonyi replaced Campbell at half-time as Australia tried to get back on terms. The West Germans' third goal came eight minutes into the second half, and for once Mueller got away from Schaefer and Peter Wilson to head home. Then the Germans took their feet off the pedal and the Socceroos came into the game. Abonyi hit the post from a Mackay through ball. Peter Ollerton came on for Buljevic. Noddy Alston ran at a retreating defence, rounded Beckenbauer and was one-on-one with Sepp Maier. Photos seem to show that the shot had beaten the keeper but somehow he managed to keep the ball from squirming over the line.

Jimmy Rooney remembers walking out against the West German side at

the World Cup in Hamburg as a surreal experience. 'Here was me, a storeman, standing next to Franz Beckenbauer. But we competed very well, especially against East Germany. We did well to be in the game for so long and had a couple of chances. We probably played about 25-30 per cent above ourselves because of the occasion. We had nothing to lose.'

The Australians had made a huge impression despite the defeats. At home the game caught the public interest and imagination to a greater extent than ever before. Three German clubs tried to sign Alston and Hamburg also wanted Buljevic. In the final game of the group against Chile, played in torrential rain, Australia won its first point in a scoreless draw despite having Ray Richards sent off late in the match. West Germany went on to win the tournament, beating Holland in the final.



Adrian Alston seems to have beaten Sepp Maier but the keeper recovered to prevent a goal. The others in the picture include Georg Schwarzenbeck and Franz Beckenbauer. Photo: Anton Cermak. Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University.



Socceroos line-up against East Germany. Left to right: Jimmy Rooney, Col Curran, Manfred Schaefer, Jimmy Mackay, Ray Richards, Johnny Warren, Doug Utjesenovic, Adrian Alston, Branko Buljevic, Jack Reilly, Peter Wilson. Photo: Anton Cermak. Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University.





# MACKENZIE AT LARGE

An Occasional Offering from Craig MacKenzie

## Wright eyes Preston first team

**LANGWARRIN teenager Bailey Wright has his sights firmly fixed on a first team berth at English championship outfit Preston North End next season.**

The former VIS star and Joeys defender has had a whirlwind first season at Deepdale and his stunning rise through the ranks culminated in the third last game of the 2009/10 season when he sat on the first team bench against Coventry at the Ricoh Arena.

"I've had a sniff of the first team and my expectations are pretty high now," said Wright.

He has good cause for optimism as Alan Irvine's departure and the arrival of Darren Ferguson as manager have revitalised the development pathway at the club and young players can once more see a future there.

Danny Mayor (19 years old), Adam Barton (19) and Jamie Proctor (18) all made their full senior debuts in the latter stages of last season and since then Ferguson has seen to it that six of the club's 10 second-year youth players have been put on pro contracts.

Preston youth team coach Jamie Hoyland didn't mince his words towards the end of last season when comparing Irvine's tenure with the few months that Ferguson had been at the helm.

"If you'd have asked me months ago I would have said that I was in a dark tunnel somewhere and I can't see any progression at Preston North End. That's all been taken away now (with) a change of management and I think Darren has got a good record in his family of bringing youth players through, if you look at his dad at Manchester United," Hoyland told PNE's website.

"You never know if anybody is good enough unless you give them a chance. That was always my bugbear with the last management; they dismissed it completely, in fact they told Danny Mayor that he was a million miles away from the first team and that didn't do our morale good in our dressing room.

"At times they didn't even fill the bench because they didn't want to put kids on there."

So it would seem that the timing is just right for Wright, who returned to Mel-



Preston manager Darren Ferguson – prepared to give young players a chance.

bourne last month but flies back to Preston on 26 June for pre-season training.

"Darren Ferguson is a good manager. He doesn't take any nonsense from anyone and you just have to look at the players who have made their first team debuts since he's taken over," said Wright.

"He's let around 13 players go if you include the ones that were out on loan and he's said that he wants to bring in a few experienced players but also give the young players at the club a chance to prove themselves.

"I think I've matured as a player. I think I'm starting to understand the game a lot more and my fitness is a lot better now. I'm really enjoying myself at Preston and that makes it a lot easier to do all the work that's needed.

"I'm very, very happy with my deci-

sion to go to Preston and my aim is to get a pro contract there."

When Wright returned to Melbourne he was armed with a personal training schedule that he has stuck to unflinching. It takes up around two hours a day four times weekly at first then progressing to five times weekly (which kicks in this week).

It involves fast feet work with cones, balancing and stretching, and endurance work. But it doesn't phase him. He expects to be returning to Preston for a pre-season stint in Northern Ireland then boot camp in Wales but there's a possibility that he might, just might, link up with the first team during their pre-season camp in Spain.

"If I show the club that I can come back really fit then I'm hoping to carry on and

progress the way I have been. Yes, I'm hoping to be more involved with the first team next season."

When I contacted Wright he was on a short "holiday" at Byron Bay with his dad, Andy, and I can confirm that Wright the younger worked extremely hard during his time there, even being unable to conduct a planned interview last Saturday due to training requirements.

I'm one of a growing band of onlookers keen to see where Bailey Wright's Preston journey takes him.

I'm sure that many football fans around Australia would like nothing better than to see him emerge among the next generation of Socceroos. And right now we need some light at the end of that tunnel.

**Some World Cup wonderings**  
"PENALTY! Penalty! Sacre bleu, mon ami! Penalty! Penalty! Mon dieu! C'était évident!"

The pained expression on Thierry Henry's face said it all. A couple of minutes to go and his mistimed volley strikes the arm of a Uruguayan defender.

The referee ignores the protestations of Henry and his teammates close by and the game fizzles out into a 0-0 draw.

What a travesty of justice. How unfair. How unreasonable. The whole episode threw up a series of questions which demanded a straightforward response, questions such as: (1) How could the football world treat the French national team like this? (2) Is the rest of the world ganging up on Les Bleus? (3) Is there a conspiracy among World Cup referees to stop France from progressing to the next round? (4) Will Thierry Henry be remembered as a world class player?

I sought out an impartial friend to provide the answers to these important questions. My pal Paddy Delaney thought long and hard about each question then responded as follows, directing his answers to each question in turn:

"Number one, because the French national team are cheating bastards. Number two, yes, because they are cheating bastards. Number three, probably not, which is to the detriment of the referees. And number four, no, because he's an ar-

rogant cheating bastard," said Delaney. What goes around comes around, as they say. Mind you from an Irish viewpoint it might take a succession of dubious refereeing decisions culminating in France's early exit from the tournament to ease the pain incurred by Ireland's highly controversial failure to reach South Africa.

Let's now move on to the World Cup finals involvement of the little-publicised sovereign European nation of Slovenia. I have to admit to harbouring a soft spot for the former Yugoslav republic. Some years ago I edited a Lonely Planet travel guide to what that publisher described as "this little-known jewel in Europe's crown."

And I think head coach Matjaz Kek has unearthed a gem of a team albeit that the majority media opinion prior to the commencement of the finals was that Slovenia would be one of the first teams out of Africa.

But don't forget that while the USA was qualifying through the CONCACAF region Slovenia had to come through a crunch home-and-away, winner-takes-all play-off against the might of Guus Hiddink's Russia.

Slovenia's 23-man squad in South Africa contains just two players – defenders Elvedin Dzinic and Suad Filekovic from NK Maribor – who ply their trade in their home country.

The rest of the squad are sprinkled throughout continental Europe and the starting eleven is spearheaded by Bundesliga duo Milivoje Novakovic (Cologne) and Zlatko Dedic (VfL Bochum).

Novakovic notched five goals during the qualifying campaign while Dedic's goal against Russia in the return clash in Maribor proved decisive.

Veteran captain Robert Koren got his country's campaign off to a flyer by scoring the winner against Algeria on the weekend and don't rule out the possibility of Slovenia joining England as qualifiers from Group C.

## Balkans Scene with Alex Milic

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**In a tight affair at Loftus, Pretoria, Ghana came away with three valuable points against a favoured**

**Serbia side. The Black Stars cut the wings of the White Eagles in what was a shocking performance by Radomir Antic's men.**

After a dull first half, Serbia looked the most likely to score but Milos Krasic didn't take the space he was given in the 16 yard box as he blasted his shot straight at Ghana's keeper Kingson. Serbia was already down to ten men following Aleksandar Lukovic's second yellow.

This seemed to spark the White Eagles into action but substitute Zdravko Kuzmanovic handballed in the 16 yard box with lest then ten minutes to go, gifting

the African giants a spot kick. Asamoah Gyan sent Vladimir Stojkovic the wrong way and gave Ghana their first points at this World Cup.

An opening win for the African powerhouse will give them a great opportunity to get through the group stages and into the knockout round while Serbia will hope to put this game behind them and look forward to the remaining two matches which they must win to be considered a place in the second stage.

Much was expected by the highly rated Serbia team but they failed to deliver once more. A star studded side will have to remain in these finals, a very ambitious side wont give up to easy.

Milovan Rajevac's excellent tactics were fully rewarded, he stopped Serbia's two key players and providers for

the strikers. Milos Krasic and Milan Jovanovic were quite throughout the match.

The pressure of expectation showed on the Serbia players who at times seemed scared to go forward and make something of an attack. Nikola Zigic and Marko Pantelic didn't get many balls and they failed to find space. Kuzmanovic and Lazovic came into the second half to chance matters, Kuzmanovic made a huge impact on the match as his inexperience cost Serbia the match.

Serbia take on group favourites Germany next in a match they must win or they will on the first flight home while Ghana will be looking to book a spot in the knockout phase when they take on the Socceroos.



Ghana's Gyan converts the 84th minute penalty against Serbia





# BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

**It was a disappointing World Cup Opening Ceremony, lacking in tributes to prominent South Africans like Eugene Terre'Blanche and Stompie Moeketsi.**

Would it have been that hard to dress a few heavies in Mandela United FC tracksuits and depict them beating and kicking a kid portraying poor old Stompie? There was plenty of traditional dancing, but the tradition of the burning rubber necklace was ignored. R.Kelly got a gig, which was surprising given he was once charged over underage sex allegations and is also hard to take seriously following the great parody of him on Chappelle's Show: "Haters wanna hate, lovers wanna love, I don't even want none of the above, I want to p### on you!"

And so the games begin. Greece are still without a World Cup goal. England are left wondering how old Peter Shilton is now, and has he kept

himself in good nick. Bafana Bafana (no, it's not a stutter) are over-run early before getting a draw. France and Uruguay put on a borefest, a disappointment for France when playing on their home continent. At least they realised they were at the football World Cup, not the handball one.

The SBS Insight look at Australian Football, "State of Play", on Tuesday night was a bit disappointing. It was about as hard hitting as you'd imagine Are You Being Served?'s Mr Humphries to be in a street fight. The conflict of interest of the parent of an "elite" junior disparaging local club coaching having a brother who runs the Sydney arm of the Barcelona Academy should have been pointed out. And how does a kid of such a young age have a knowledge of which coaching is better and how many teams should be in the A-League? A proper debate show would have probed such puppeteering.

The only decent part of the SBS's telecast has proven to be Santo Sam and Ed's World Cup Fever. At least the don't take themselves too seriously. It's funny how the so called important matches are marred by the commentary of David Basheer, whilst those viewed as less relevant use an ESPN-feed which features the man, Martin Tyler.

No surprise to read an Aussie yobbo wind up drunk and asleep in a South African politician's driveway. He seems to be of the same ilk that like to pay their respect to the ANZAC's by getting drunk and singing Khe Sanh at Gallipoli. Wonder how he went in the Punch Up In A Car Park? Maybe I can find out at [www.soccerooligans.com](http://www.soccerooligans.com)



## KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

**Our beloved Socceroos were well and truly outclassed and out played by a very strong German outfit in our World cup opening match yesterday. I share your pain and feel same disappointment. I also hear the knives coming out for Pim Verbeek, and to be honest I think it's a little premature and unfair.**

The fact of the matter is we really need to put this result in to perspective. In the world of football scheme of things, we were a small nation pitted against a world super power. I think the success of World Cup 2006 has meant that everybody's expectations were unrealistic and beyond our capabilities.

This has been evident from commentary I have seen and heard over the last 24 hours. The reality of the matter is that we are a nation with a national league of 8 teams who had to face a football nation that pulls average crowds in vicinity of 50,000 to their do-

mestic Bundesliga games.

The fact of the matter is that although we were outclassed and outplayed, Pim verbeek did not have the cattle at his disposal like Gudd Hiddink did. It is not Pim's fault that our last crop of top quality players have not been replaced with a fresh new batch of performers.

I think we all have to realise that what we witness in 2006 was a class of 'Golden Generation' players, who made their mark for a time and a place and produced above par performances.

It would be naive to think that we were going to replicate the magical moments all over again.

We have said all along that against the calibre of your Qatars, Bahraains and other Asian opposition the system that Pim adopted could work. The statistics prove that, however against the might of someone like Germany we could expect to be on the receiving end of ruthlessness. Players of that magnitude do not hold back and

the capabilities to clinically punish you, and we certainly got a taste of it yesterday.

The fact of the matter is, unless you are a Germany, or a Brazil, or an Argentina, it takes time for the cycle of players to replenish itself. Every nation will experience an era whereby the feel blessed with the talent at their disposal. I believe Australia is in the middle of that cycle, and the demands and expectations have proven to be unrealistic.

The true test of character for this current crop of players will occur in the next two games. How will they respond? How will they answer the critics after that first match drubbing?

There is no doubt that they have the will, the pride, the passion and the determination.

The Serbs are definitely there for the taking after forced to lick their wounds also. The Ghanaians will be a different prospect altogether after gaining ascendancy in the group.

Ultimately, whatever happens, we should be proud of our boys for getting this far under the circumstances. It will still be a memorable journey and achievement, and perhaps won't be recognised as much for at least a few more years yet.

The game will definitely benefit all the more for the experience, but we have to be realistic as to where our level is in the bigger picture.

It was not that long ago that it seemed we were destined that we would never get to another World Cup again. It just goes to show how far the game has come in a short space of time whereby the demands of a thirsty footballing public has changed.

One only has to look at teams from the past to get a better understanding of how long it can be between drinks to appreciate how well your team is doing - and that you should embrace it and never take it for granted. Ask Uruguay if they have been able to reproduce the form of winning two World

Cups in the 1930s. Ask Denmark if they have been able to reproduce a side with the same richness of the 1980s. Ask the English how they feel every time we mention 1966.

The only thing that probably could have saved the Qantas Socceroos against Germany the other morning was their ambassador, John Travolta. But even he would have to be decked out in his gear from Saturday Night Fever to pull some major moves off. Funny how time has that effect on all of us.

Funnily enough, it's the only thing that ever wins and even ageing soccer teams, no matter how good they were on their day, ultimately have to face the passage of Father Time. I look forward to our next two contests. It's not over just yet.

There's still plenty left to play for. For the first time in a long time we can play with nothing to lose. Ironically, it may actually just work better for us.

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I've just come back from Phuket after playing in the Seniors World Cup for Australia with ex Socceroos Alan Davidson, Robbie Zabica and Bobby Despotovski, as well as other ex-WA players, coached by another ex Socceroo, Gary Marrochi.

We beat Iran 4-1 in the final, after beating USA 3-0, New Zealand 2-1, Taiwan 3-0 and Thailand 3-0. Five games in 6 days was some ask for our well worn bodies, not to mention the 35 degrees heat to go with it.

This was no holiday let me tell you! Kat found the heat a monster and will be wiser for the next tournament, but Alan Davidson was a freak playing every single minute of every game - unbelievable! In my opinion he is still fit enough to play in the A-League and he would put younger blokes to shame.

He was voted Player of the Tournament after being the only player to last the distance! Other notables were Bobby Despotovski, who still can score the goals like he did for Perth Glory all those years ago, and little Norrie Sutton - that jinkie winger who reminded me of Joe Watson - was outstanding! Peter Murphy, ex-Melbourne Knights player, with his silky skills and touch, scored some outstanding goals, and was also one of our best. Robbie Zabica was also outstanding, pulling off some marvelous saves.

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank all the boys for a great tournament and look forward to next season when we defend the title. I believe Brazil and Scotland will participate next season.

One world championship under our belts, and let's hope our beloved Socceroos can repeat the feat!

## Greece Tragedy

I sat there in anticipation to watch Greece play Korea, and having played against Korea I knew exactly what Greece had to expect. Here is a team that is technically sound, is competent in executing precise passing, disciplined, and not flash in any stretch of the imagination, but

just hard working. So I asked myself again, can Greece beat Korea? Let's wait and see.

The doubt was always there but what was to unfold was embarrassing. Korea beat Greece comfortably and they should have scored 4 or maybe even 5 goals, not the 2-0 which ended up being the final result. The Koreans played well but the opposition was absolutely dreadful. They looked like they had a night at the bouzoukia! They could not put 5 passes together. There was no penetration, and to top it off they continuously lost the ball.

Furthermore, the cohesion was non-existent, arguing with each other, and appeared to have 3 captains in one game! What the hell is going on with Greece? Sortiris Kyrgiakos, the big strong Liverpool player was on the bench when he should have been playing in the centre of the defense! Giorgos Samaras should have been partnering Gekas up front instead of Haristeas, so what the hell is he doing there? He was an absolute passenger on this occasion, and it appears they are all resting on the laurels of Euro 2004. The sooner they get over it, the better!

Then there was Karagounis. Is he really the playmaker for Greece? He is well past his best and way too slow in his decision making. On top of that, he couldn't cross a ball properly and his touch and technique of kicking a ball seemed to have deserted him. Otto Rehaegel looked calm on the bench as if was a training game. It looks as though they were just happy to get to the World Cup and not wanting to try to qualify for the next round. Looking at Otto's body language he looks as if he is over it.

After watching Argentina I asked myself how many goals is Greece going to pick out of the net? Let's hope they don't embarrass themselves further and at least save some dignity for the Greeks around the world! I have always said that that Euro 2004 was a miracle, and after watching their most recent performance, nothing would change my mind.

**Socceroos what happened ?  
The opening match against**



From Wold Eaters to World Beaters! Norrie Sutton, Peter Katholos, Alan Davidson and Peter Murphy enjoy the Thai hospitality after competing in the Seniors World Cup for the Aussies last week.

**Germany was the crunch game as a draw was the desired result . As it turned out we have some work to do after the 4-0 loss and are lucky it was not more thanks to Mark Schwarzer.**

The Germans were clinical and very impressive with their passing and running off the ball. The touches displayed were from a team that will go a long way in this World Cup. Our boys were out of our depth here even though they tried to compete as best they could. The way I witnessed the match, we were outclassed in the midfield and they were more creative.

They would break from the midfield while our players were left ball watching. No one went with the runners. There are times when it's required to adopt man to man marking over zonal defense.

This is the area where the leader at the back calls the shots and organises his defence, and I must point the finger at the central defenders who were

also at fault. Tim Cahill's red card was harsh, but he must control his aggression as he seems to be getting in the habit of giving away silly fouls. Just ask New Zealand's Leo Bertos.

I was not surprised to see Vince Grella get the hook half time and please, Jason Culina, when will you go forward with the ball instead of sideways? In my opinion, the Aussies sorely missed a genuine playmaker in the middle of the park who can dictate the play and deal the aces to the front runners.

Brad Holman came on to save us, but it was concerning that gave the ball away so often. Are we watching the same player? How does he warrant a Aussie shirt? What is his contribution stats? Please tell me! The big question was, where was Harry Kewell ? We all know that he has been struggling with that groin injury, and I must admit Mile Jedinak although a good player, was found to be too slow for that level of football. Chipperfield , Valeri ,

Wilkshire , Emerton and Schwarzer were all good performers. Let's see if we can bounce back in the next game against Ghana. I will be a do or die match now, so the lads must believe in themselves, communicate, and be disciplined!

My impression of the World Cup so far, has been very good. The playing surfaces are immaculate and the colour at the stadiums is fantastic. The football also played thus far has been impressive. Mexico looked good as did South Africa. France is also ok. Argentina has been the most impressive and they should have scored 5 past a very good Nigerian side. Messi looks hungry and I love the aura of Maradona. England looked good, but their goalkeeper let them down.

The USA are no pushovers, and Ghana will be a handful. Needless to say we found out first-hand how terrific the Germans are!

See you all again next week !

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With Leroy Robinson in the UK

# ENGLAND EXPECTS (TOO MUCH)

By Leroy Robinson

They came, they played, and they drew against the USA. Yet by the glum faces amongst the England fans on Saturday after the 1-1 draw in their first World Cup group match, you'd think a sinkhole had just evaporated half of England. It's strange, considering England hasn't won the thing since 1966, the level of expectation heaped upon the team. That's not to say they shouldn't be disappointed. But dejected? Maybe I'm in the minority who isn't as pessimistic about the performance as those fans with faces longer than the West End traffic.

The commentators on UK television described it as a "very good performance". I'd call it good. The first half was an even contest, the second England were the dominant team. Those people thinking the USA were some pub team who just came fresh off a basketball court, ready to be rolled over, need to understand that this team beat Spain a year ago, and they have many players playing in top European leagues.

I wouldn't use any one game as a barometer of whether England can get to the semi-finals or final. Each game can be taken on its merits. That said there are few things England must be worry about going into the latter stages of the competition. With the unreliable Ledley King taken off at half-time, all that's left at centre-back are speedsters (that's ironic folks) Dawson, Carragher, Terry and Upson. The good news is if England top the group, which I still believe they will, they have a chance of playing France in the quarter finals. That's if both teams win their group and negotiate the last sixteen.

Wouldn't it be great to play a team that have more pressure on them than England? One spearheaded by as big a non-striking forward as England in Nicolas Anelka - the man who has scores for his country as often as a total eclipse. Then again Heskey hasn't scored at all since February - in any competition. At least you know who to avoid putting your money on at the bookmakers if these two meet!

## LIVERPOOL NEED A RELIABLE COACH TO GO THE DISTANCE

The Premier League season is in the



The moment when you heard 50 million pints simultaneously being dropped around England. Robert Green and his howler.

rear-view mirror but you just can't keep Rafa Benitez out of the news. After sacking him eighteen months too late and paying him £6m in compensation they have to choose their next manager. The one thing they've done correctly is get rid of him with plenty of time in which to find a replacement. The names couldn't be more prestigious: van Gaal, Guus Hiddink, Jurgen Klinsmann, Martin O'Neill and even Harry Redknapp.

One thing Liverpool is forgetting in all this is that they aren't as big a name as they once were. Yes, Liverpool is still a big club and would be a great "project" - the football equivalent of a renovation of a once glorious stately home. But would an established name really be interested? Would van Gaal, for instance, join an Anfield outfit with an annual transfer spend which is about the same as his yearly wages? There's not even a guarantee that money from the sales of Torres and Gerrard would go towards the team.

No matter what its history, that isn't the type of information a new coach with any pedigree will find attractive. Let's explore two of the leading candidates, both are English.

Roy Hodgson would walk to Liverpool if it guaranteed him the job. Yet, as I suggested not so long ago in this column, the job is a little too big for someone with no track record of success at a big club. What he has in his favour is he wouldn't cost much in wages and can work on a shoe-string budget. That is the same thing people have said about Harry Redknapp - that he is a wheeler-dealer who'll get those free transfers and loan players from foreign clubs. Yet if Hodgson has no track record at the highest level at least he has experi-

ence, having worked at Inter Milan as coach. Redknapp, though with a bigger club right now, has no history of running a big club such as Liverpool.

Also, the idea he is some sort of Messiah who turns a bottle of wine into a case of Louis Cristal champagne, is completely false. At Portsmouth what he really did was buy and sell lots of players. He was a compulsive shopper who went into every clothes store looking for a bargain, bought what he could (and in some cases couldn't) afford and tried on the clothes at home before asking the wife how he looked. Yeah, some looked good and others stank - it's called the law of averages. He's a hit and miss type of coach who inherited good players at Spurs and was lucky enough to sign good players from Portsmouth at next to nothing because they owed Spurs money.

It's not all luck, and yes, he has done a great job in dragging spurs from near relegation certainties into the qualifying stages of the UCL. However he did it with the nucleus of the team he inherited, adding players he already knew. At Liverpool he would start all over again, like Pompey but without the cash and inheriting immense expectation. Would he really want that and would Liverpool really want to chance it?

The point I'm making is that basing Redknapp's ability to coach Liverpool on the job he's doing at Spurs is wrong. He wouldn't be inheriting a like-for-like situation. The biggest problem with both men is they are under contract and their clubs would have to be compensated. The bottom line for Liverpool these days is that everything comes down to that word Pink Floyd sung about. Money.

Anyway, surely its far better to

bring someone in who will be free and has experience building a squad from the bottom, plus a track record.

Enter Frank Rijkaard. He is one of my favourite's coaches. His teams play great football and he helped develop a number of young players at FC Barcelona - but he won't join Liverpool because he too is under contract at Galatasary in Turkey. I guess the bottom line is that there is a shortage of coaches that would fit the bill. That's why if I was in power at Anfield I would have Rijkaard sign a pre-contract for next year and bring in a stop-gap. He ticks all the boxes. He's won the UCL and La Liga, managed a huge club, and speaks perfect English. I don't know who would take the job on a temporary basis (Dalglish maybe?) but there has to be someone out there.



Future Anfield boot-room boy? Maybe Frank Rijkaard could be just the tonic a underachieving Liverpool needs.

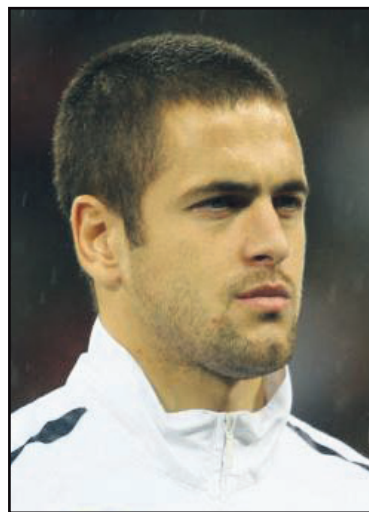
## COLE ISN'T A CHEAP COMMODITY

Rumour has it Joe Cole has signed a pre-contract with Arsenal that will give him a 3-year contract. Allegedly the deal has been agreed in principle and is awaiting Mr. Cole's signature when his (hopefully) protracted stay in South Africa ends.

This makes a lot of sense for Joe himself as I stated in a previous article "The Curious Case of Joe Cole". He has a child and is settled in London. Why uproot because you're tossed a few bits of extra silver from Manchester City? The al-

leged contract has lots of incentives, probably for winning the FA Cup, League and Champions League - as well as for finishing fourth. If the news makes sense for Joe Cole I'm not really sure if it makes sense for Arsenal. He will compete alongside Nasri, Arshavin, Rosicky, Fabregas, Walcott and maybe even Chamakh for starting berths in already packed wide midfield and attacking midfield areas. And remember Aaron Ramsey is going to be fit eventually.

My problem isn't with Cole as a player. He is a great dribbler, a bit inconsistent but aren't they all. It isn't even with his dubious fitness record over the years. My problem is I don't think it is an area that presents the most problems for Wenger and if I'm honest we know he only has Cole because he didn't cost a transfer fee. He won't make Arsenal any better than they were last year in my opinion. He won't stop the goal-keeper dropping the ball on corners or compensate for Gallas's eccentricity or the lack of pace of Campbell and Silvestre, or Clichy's tendency to forget his bearings. Unless he gets quality defenders - and that may actually mean spending money Arsene - then all he's done is spend money on having the house redecorated while the roof is still leaking. Good luck to Joe. It's great to see a family guy not swayed by big City's big money - that's of course if he was even offered a deal by them in the first place.



From King's Road to Holloway: Cole could make the switch from Chelsea to Arsenal.



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# England's Fantasy World Cup

And so the first ever Football World Cup to be staged in the continent of Africa has finally kicked off. In just a few short hours England will begin their campaign, hoping to end over forty years of wishing that we could once again call ourselves World Champions.

Despite our optimism, most England fans know exactly how our tournament will go; England scrape out of their group after uninspiring draws against USA and Algeria, then look a little better in their first knockout game, then go out to on penalties in the quarter final. Same old same old. But what if England fans could book their own fantasy World Cup, charting their nation's path to glory? Well, at least if I was in charge of proceedings, this is how England's Fantasy World Cup would go.

England began their tournament against the USA, no longer a minnow of world football. Many England fans were nervous before kick-off because this game looked the toughest of their three group games, and it's not unlikely that the Americans could pull off an upset. However, within a few minutes of the first half Wayne Rooney, hoping to be England's talisman throughout the tournament, heads in a Steven Gerrard cross to put England ahead.

From then on it's pretty plain sailing as England knock the ball around with confidence, and the Americans struggle to make an impact. In the second half England bring on Gareth Barry, just returning to fitness, and it's good to see him get some game time under his belt after his recent injury. A professional job by England is wrapped up ten minutes from time as Rooney sends a through ball to Lampard, who slots the ball home for a two-nil win to the Three Lions.

England's remaining two games are even easier than their first, with Rooney grabbing a goal against Slovenia in a three-nil win, and Emile Heskey getting on the scoresheet, along with Lennon and Defoe in a four-nil pasting of Algeria. So England advance as group winners, meaning that they have to play the runners-up from Group D, Australia.

The game against the Aussie's is tough, as the team from down-under are well organised and very fit. It's goalless going into the second half, so Fabio Capello decides to bring on Peter Crouch, the only England forward without a goal so far. The change makes an immediate impact on the game, as the Australians simply cannot handle Crouch, who is winning everything in the air, creating



Dreams are free: England's Fantasy Football XI takes to the field in a bid to win the World Cup.

chances for those around him. Eventually the big man's persistence up front finally creates a chance for Rooney, who slips the ball through Mark Schwarzer's legs to put England ahead.

A few minutes later Crouch gets his goal, as a Steven Gerrard corner is forced home at the near post by the lanky forward. However, Australia aren't quite done, and a corner of their own gets headed in by Everton man Tim Cahill. After what seems like hours, but which was only ten minutes, the final whistle goes and England fans can stop holding their breath as their team have made into another World Cup quarter-final, this time against close neighbours France.

The unbalanced nature of the French national team has once again been on show in South Africa. They struggled to get out of their group, yet managed to somehow take top spot, then against Nigeria in the first knockout stage they managed to score five goals, Henry getting a hat-trick. And it's the very best France have to offer that England come up against.

Early into the first half Glen Johnson gets caught out at right back, and Franck Ribery makes him pay by easing into the penalty box and firing past England number one Robert Green. Immediately following the restart England's main man Rooney gets on the ball and starts spraying passes all over the field, and quite simply the French defence is looking lost against such a talent. Minutes before half-time Rooney finds Lennon running in from the right, who cuts the ball across to Gerrard, who blasts the ball home to make it all square at the break.

As both teams make their way onto the pitch for the second half, Rooney is shouting at his team-mates, and they're all looking pumped up for what is to come. England dominate the second half, with England's two men of the tournament, Rooney and Gerard, seemingly everywhere. A powerful shot from Gerrard is blocked, but is followed in by Rooney to put England ahead. Towards the end of the game France commit more men forward, but England counter well, and a run from Joe Cole ends with

a foul in the box by William Gallas, who gets a straight red card. Lampard takes the penalty, and manages to send the keeper the wrong way, and England wrap up the game three-one. On to the semi-finals, and a match against Brazil.

Brazil have been awesome so far, with Kaka being the only man close to Rooney in terms of being the player of the tournament. Their quarter final against the Dutch was undoubtedly the match of the tournament, finishing three-two to the South Americans. Despite both teams having scored plenty of goals between them, the first half goes by without either team finding the net, although their have been chances aplenty for both sides.

Into the second half, it looks like Brazil have the upper hand, with Kaka running the show, giving Barry and Gerrard problems. However, midway through the half Kaka is thwarted on yet another slalom type run by England's left back Ashley Cole, who tackles him not unlike the Bobby Moore tackle on the great Pele all those years ago. Cole launches the ball forward to Heskey,

who nods it down to Rooney who fires the ball past Julio Cesar to give England the lead. That takes Rooney's tally up to four, equal with Spain's David Villa, who is contesting the other semi-final with Argentina.

Brazil continue to press, but Terry and King are rocks at the back, and England hold on to reach the World Cup final. Unfortunately for the Spanish, they fell to the Argentineans in their game, leaving Rooney a chance to finish as both top scorer and World Cup winner, but he must score in the final.

On the eve of the final, the Argentina coach, and best football player ever Diego Maradona causes huge controversy as he does an interview stating that he has told his players that if an opportunity comes up to cheat, as he did against England years ago, that they should do it.

And so the final rolls around, and as usual it's a cagey affair, but with added spice, as both teams seem intent on kicking each other rather than playing football. Seven yellow cards are the only notable stats going into the second half. As England come out, Rooney is once again running around like a man possessed. He knows that many people have billed this game as Rooney against Messi, and he is having a much better game than the man from South America. Joe Cole is also having a great game, and it's a foul on him which gives England a free kick in prime position.

Lampard looks like he wants to take it, but Rooney grabs the ball, and places it down himself. He takes the kick, lifts the ball over the wall and into the top corner, and England lead in the World Cup final. Straight after Argentina are on the attack, with a ball lifted into the area for Messi, and he seemingly controls the ball with his hand, which the referee misses. But rather than slide the ball home, Messi stops and admits to handling the ball. And then the final whistle goes and England have won the World Cup for the first time since 1966. Rooney, top-scorer and player of the tournament embraces Messi, a great sportsman as well as a great player. And Steven Gerrard lifts the trophy as the England fans, both in South Africa and back home go mad.

*Warning, none of this has actually taken place, it's merely a bit of fun. At the time of this being written England haven't kicked a ball in anger, but hopefully it's not too far from the truth. Or is England winning the World Cup complete fantasy?*

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# ‘World of Soccer’ World Cup Round 2 at Saxon Sports

Round 2 of the Group stage once again produced some fantastic games of soccer - 172 goals in 14 games!

The game of the round was in Group A where with 30 seconds to go South Africa and Uruguay were tied at 6-6 before South Africa scored , snatching victory and securing their place in the last 16 - they are tied with France on 6 points - final game in Group A is France V South Africa - promises to be an absolute cracker as they battle it out to win the group.

The first draw of the World Cup took place tonight between Germany and Serbia aswell as the first goalless performance by a team with England failing to trouble the scoreboard against a mightly impressive Italy, who seem to be peaking at just the right time.

New Zealand were narrowly beaten by Paraguay but now play Italy where a draw would see Italy through on goal difference or a New Zealand win will guarantee their place in the next stage.

Portugal look threatening with Billy's goal scoring prowess a key weapon, Spain bounced back from a defeat strongly, Netherlands are quietly making an impression on the tournament and Greece, Argentina & Nigeria are keeping the crowd on the edge of

their seats, such is the closeness of Group B.

Nations that have secured their places in the last 16 are France (Group A), South Africa (A), Greece (B), Australia (C), Cameroon (D), Netherlands (D), Paraguay (E) & Portugal (F).

With the two highest 3rd place nations qualifying for the last 16 every team still has everything to play for - Spain and New Zealand currently are the best 3rd placed teams which means nations on 0 points can still make it through by winning in Round 3!

Who will win the Golden Boot Award is anyone's guess! Matt (Brazil) 13, Naz (Cameroon) 12, Yonus (Cameroon) 12, Billy (Portugal) 12 & Jahid (Greece) 11 lead the way.

With plenty riding on all results next week it's been tough to pick out any games of the round - Italy V New Zealand (E) is a winner takes 2nd spot contest, Cameroon V Netherlands (D) sees the winner grab top spot and Ivory Coast V Brazil is another winner secures qualification contest whilst the losing nation will sweat on the third place qualification spots.

### Game Results:

**Group A**  
South Africa 7 v Uruguay 6

France 6 v Mexico 4

**Group B**  
Korea Republic 1 v Greece 13  
Argentina 4 v Nigeria 0

**Group C**  
Serbia 5 v Germany 5  
Australia 9 v Ghana 2

**Group D**  
Netherlands 9 v Japan 3  
Denmark 2 v Cameroon 15

**Group E**  
NZ 4 v Paraguay 5  
Italy 22 v England 0

**Group F**  
Portugal 13 v Brazil 5  
Algeria 3 v Ivory Coast 4

**Group G**  
Chile 7 v Switzerland 5  
Spain 10 v Honduras 3

### Leading Goal scorers of the night:

Jahid (Greece) 9  
Chaz (Italy) 7  
Yonus (Cameroon) 7  
Naz (Cameroon) 7  
Billy (Portugal) 6

*For more info including ladders, video highlights and how the last 16 will be drawn go to [www.saxonsportsfrankston.com](http://www.saxonsportsfrankston.com)*

WAG OF THE WEEK



Pamela Diaz Age: 29  
InSignificant Other: Chilean Forward, Manuel Neira.



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*Italy v Paraguay*  
**12 - Tues 15-Jun 21:00 LIVE**  
*New Zealand v Slovakia*  
**13 - Tues 15-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Cote d'Ivoire v Portugal*  
**14 - Wed 16-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Brazil v Korea DPR*  
**15 - Wed 16-Jun 21:00 LIVE**  
*Honduras v Chile*  
**16 - Wed 16-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Spain v Switzerland*  
**17 - Thurs 17-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*South Africa v Uruguay*  
**18 - Thurs 17-Jun 21:00 LIVE**  
*Argentina v Korea Republic*  
**19 - Thurs 17-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Greece v Nigeria*  
**20 - Fri 18-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*France v Mexico*  
**21 - Fri 18-Jun 21:00 LIVE**  
*Germany v Serbia*  
**22 - Fri 18-Jun 23:30 LIVE**

*Slovenia v USA*  
**23 - Sat 19-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*England v Algeria*  
**24 - Sat 19-Jun 21:00 LIVE**  
*Netherlands v Japan*  
**25 - Sat 19-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Ghana v Australia*  
**26 - Sun 20-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Cameroon v Denmark*  
**27 - Sun 20-Jun 21:00 LIVE**  
*Slovakia v Paraguay*  
**28 - Sun 20-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Italy v New Zealand*  
**29 - Mon 21-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Brazil v Cote d'Ivoire*  
**30 - Mon 21-Jun 21:00 LIVE**  
*Portugal v Korea DPR*  
**31 - Mon 21-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Chile v Switzerland*  
**32 - Tues 22-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Spain v Honduras*  
**33 - Tues 22-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Mexico v Uruguay*  
**34 - Wed 23-Jun 02:00 Delayed**  
*France v South Africa*  
**35 - Wed 23-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Greece v Argentina*  
**36 - Wed 23-Jun 06:30 Delayed**  
*Nigeria v Korea Republic*  
**37 - Wed 23-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Slovenia v England*  
**38 - Thurs 24-Jun 02:00 Delayed**

*USA v Algeria*  
**39 - Thurs 24-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Australia v Serbia*  
**40 - Thurs 24-Jun 06:30 Delayed**  
*Ghana v Germany*  
**41 - Thurs 24-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Slovakia v Italy*  
**42 - Fri 25-Jun 02:00 Delayed**  
*Paraguay v New Zealand*  
**43 - Fri 25-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Cameroon v Netherlands*  
**44 - Fri 25-Jun 06:30 Delayed**  
*Denmark v Japan*  
**45 - Fri 25-Jun 23:30 LIVE**  
*Portugal v Brazil*  
**46 - Sat 26-Jun 02:00 Delayed**  
*Korea DPR v Cote d'Ivoire*  
**47 - Sat 26-Jun 04:00 LIVE**  
*Chile v Spain*  
**48 - Sat 26-Jun 06:30 Delayed**  
*Switzerland v Honduras*

**Round of 16**  
49 - Sat 26-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
*1A v 2B*  
50 - Sun 27-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
*1C v 2D*  
51 - Sun 27-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
*1D v 2C*  
52 - Mon 28-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
*1B v 2A*  
53 - Mon 28-Jun 23:30 LIVE

*1E v 2F*  
54 - Tues 29-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
*1G v 2H*  
55 - Tues 29-Jun 23:30 LIVE  
*1F v 2E*  
56 - Wed 30-Jun 04:00 LIVE  
*1H v 2G*

**Quarter Finals**  
57 - Fri 02-Jul 23:30 LIVE  
*53 v 54*  
58 - Sat 03-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
*49 v 50*  
59 - Sat 03-Jul 23:30 LIVE  
*52 v 51*  
60 - Sun 04-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
*55 v 56*

**Semi Finals**  
61 - Wed 07-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
*58 v 57*  
62 - Thurs 08-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
*59 v 60*

**3rd & 4th Place Play-Off**  
63 - Sun 11-Jul 04:00 LIVE  
*61 (Losers) v 62 (Losers)*

**World Cup Final**  
64 - Mon 12-Jul 03:30 LIVE  
*61 v 62*





**FULL NAME:** Liam Clifford Scott  
**BIRTHPLACE:** Tasmania  
**BIRTH DATE:** 06/01/1992  
**HEIGHT:** 180cm  
**WEIGHT:** 68kg  
**MARRIED:** No  
**CAR:** Hyundai  
**NICKNAME:** Scotty  
**PREVIOUS CLUBS:** Metro, South Hobart  
**REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:** State Under 14/15 – Captain, Tasmanian Institute of Sport – captain, Australian Under 17 Joeys – team camps, Under 20 Australian team – team camp.  
**CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO:** Lucas Neill  
**FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER:** Steven Gerrard  
**FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER:** Adrian Leijer  
**FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO:** Johnny Warren – just everything he did for the game.  
**FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO:** Tim Cahill  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER:** Making my senior debut at age 16, coming off the bench in the 14th minute and collecting Man of the Match. The game was against Olympia at home.  
**MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN:** World Cup qualifier against Uruguay 2006, I was one of the crowd. Seeing the Socceroos make the World Cup for the first time in 32 years.  
**MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED:** Zebras v's South, scored the winning goal. Late in the game, I broke down the left and a ball was played in behind the defence and I managed to beat the keeper one on one. It was an important goal and one which sticks in my mind.  
**EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY:** Running around in the backyard with a ball at my feet, shooting against the house.  
**FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL:** Being sent off for wearing the 'wrong' colour skins.  
**BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT:** Not making the Under 17 World Cup squad  
**WORST INJURY:** Currently, broken elbow  
**MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT:** Playing on Tommy Oar. He has pace, touch, the whole package.  
**FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND:** KGV Park, Glenorchy, Tasmania.  
**SUPERSTITIONS:** Left boot on first  
**TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL:** Pasta  
**WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS:** Reading the play, attacking from deep, stamina and passing  
**WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES:** Shooting.  
**FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP:** Leeds United  
**FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS:** AFL, athletics  
**FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON:** Ricky Ponting.  
**FAVOURITE FOODS:** Pasta and Rice  
**FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS:** Adam Sandler and Emma Watson  
**HOBBIES:** Chilling with mates.  
**FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT:** Gold Coast  
**FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT:** Town with mates.  
**IDEAL DATE:** Dinner and a movie  
**FAVOURITE TV SHOWS:** Sports, Gossip Girl, and Two and a Half Men  
**FAVOURITE MUSIC:** Bit of Techno, Ministry of Sound, Deadmau5, Bloody Beetroots.  
**FAVOURITE FILM:** Longest Yard  
**LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT:** Chelsea top  
**FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF:** Transferring clubs.  
**BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER:** Dad  
**BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER:** Refereeing calls which don't go my way.  
**FOOTBALL AMBITION:** Make a career out of the world game, keep developing and never lose the passion for the game.  
**WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?:** Messi  
**YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP:** Spain



South Hobart FC

Liam Scott

PHOTO: WALTER PLESS



# FAR NORTH QSL BULLS

SEASON 2010



PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN

**BACK ROW:** Dennis Allen, Kane Alderton, Nathan Davis, Steven Dangaard, Cameron Morrison, Bronson Koppen, Larry Maggio, David Ruiz, Callum Wood, Victor Madrid, Steven Jones (Coach).

**FRONT ROW:** George Koroma, Paul Ruiz, Robert Pendenza, Joe Rusch, Angleo Serafin, Nathan Bird, Alex Plowman, Josh De Nittis.

The Far North Queensland Bulls FC or North Queensland Bulls are a football club from Mareeba, located in North Queensland. They were founded in 2009, and currently compete in the Queensland State League. The Bulls were founded in 2009, and competed in the 2009 Queensland State League, in which was their first season. They finished respectively in mid-table, 7th out of 11 teams. In the 2010 season they are looking to do much better. They are one of two feeder teams for A-League side North Queensland Fury along with North Queensland Razorbacks are they are considered to be fierce rivals, being the only two teams outside of the A-League to be playing in the North Queensland area in a professional competition. In the future the Bulls are hoping to become a dominant side in the QSL.



# Strikers in seventh heaven

By Jarrod Ellis

The World Cup may have garnered the attention of the majority of the football world over the weekend but it wasn't the only show in town as the QSL entered its twelfth round of competition.

After going down convincingly to Sunshine Coast last weekend Brisbane Strikers hosted a Bundaberg Spirit team that was on a high after their long awaited first win of the season. The Sprit have traditionally struggled against the Brisbane side and to the disappointment of their supporters this occasion proved to be no different.

It took only eleven minutes for Matt Thurtell to add to his season tally as Brisbane took an early but deserved lead.

To Bundaberg's credit they responded well to going behind, a situation they've become familiar with this season, giving Brisbane trouble out wide and testing keeper Brendan White from long range.

New Spirit signing Ray Miller was causing Brisbane's defence some headaches with some tricky runs and crosses and it was no real surprise that he proved to be the provider as Bundaberg pulled level in the 29th minute.

With designated left back Matija Simic receiving treatment for an injury on the sidelines Miller found himself defended by Brad McDonald who seemed ill-equipped to cope with the young winger as he was easily rounded before a dangerous cross was whipped into the area. Spirit stalwart Shane Youngberry was the first to the ball and despite not making the best of connections with the ball, managed to steer it past a seemingly stranded White with a looping header.

That was as good as things would get for the visitors as Brisbane seemed stung that the regional minnows would dare provide adequate resistance. The home side attacked straight from the restart and a clumsy tackle from Corey Haack in the penalty area brought down Sean Burke resulting in a penalty. Matt Thurtell stepped up confidently and had no troubles slotting it past Luigi Vasquez to regain the lead for Brisbane.

From that point on until half time both sides traded shots and corners in what was a surprisingly balanced and entertaining affair. It wouldn't last however and Bundaberg were struck a cruel blow on the stroke of half time.

Thurtell was the provider this time as he sent a ball across the face of goal after an excellent run and pass from McDonald down the left. Chay Hews was then in the right place at the right time, collecting the pass from Thurtell and placed it past Vasquez into the bottom right corner of the net.

3-1 down at half time Bundaberg were looking unlikely to come away from Perry Park with a result and second half proceedings were entirely not



Jamie Wilesmith (Bulls/orange) and Sunshine Coast's Shaun Blackman in QSL action from an earlier round. Blackman was on the scoresheet the Coast against the Miners on the weekend. PHOTO: JIM HATCHMAN

in their favour as Brisbane ran in four unanswered goals.

The first came barely a minute after the restart as Bundaberg defender Lucas Read bundled a spilled ball from Vasquez over the line as he ran back in cover defence.

The next goal was entirely of the Strikers creation as Sean Burke sent a first time cross into the area to meet a charging Matt Thurtell who volleyed the ball into the roof of the net in an impressive display of skill and finishing.

Having let in two goals within ten minutes of the restart Bundaberg keeper Luigi Vasquez could have been forgiven for feeling overwhelmed but his contribution to Brisbane's sixth goal was criminal.

On a night that would also see England's keeper Robert Green commit a howler at the World Cup, Vasquez dawdled on the ball as he sought to pass it out to the defence. The ever present Matt Thurtell wasted no time in closing him down and Vasquez attempted to pass around him only for

the ball to striker Thurtell's legs and ricochet straight into the net.

Bundaberg to their credit didn't give up and still attempted to play good football, causing the Strikers defence some headaches and forcing White into making some good saves. Merely good intentions aren't enough against a team of Brisbane's calibre though and the home side found a seventh and final goal three minutes from time.

This time it was substitute Jordan Farina who beat Vasquez, curling it past the keeper from the edge of the area, the young attacker seemingly making a habit of scoring off the bench this season.

One of Saturday's other games saw Capricorn Cougars host FNQ Bulls, a week after the home sides' ignominious defeat to the Spirit. With confidence down, injuries mounting and finals hopes slipping away this was a crucial match for the Cougars and the pressure brought the best out of them as they secured a well deserved 3-2 win.

All Capricorn's goals came in the first

half as the home side blitzed the Bulls, going in to the sheds 3-0 up at the half. Wide man Tom Evans was the main source of inspiration for the Cougars as he helped break their scoring drought, scoring a brace in the 10th and 42nd minutes. Fergus McIntosh was also in on the act as he extended his sides' lead to 2-0 in the 25th minute.

FNQ Bulls are certainly no easy beats and they responded as expected in the second half, testing the Cougars' keeper at each and every opportunity. The Rusch and Ruiz double act that so often sees the Bulls to victory did their part, clawing the deficit back to a single goal after each scoring in the 64th and 76th minute respectively. This wasn't to be the Bulls' night however as Capricorn held on to secure a much needed win.

The remaining Saturday game was a face off between NQ Razorbacks and QAS at Brolga Park. QAS went into the match in a good vein of form having lost only once in their past five performances, a run that saw them nipping at the heels of the Razorbacks in

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts		
1 Sunshine Coast	12	12	0	0	37	15	22	36		
2 Brisbane Strikers	12	7	2	3	26	9	17	23		
3 NQ Razorbacks	12	6	2	4	22	13	9	20		
4 FNQ Bulls	12	6	0	6	26	25	1	18		
5 QAS	11	4	1	6	24	27	-3	13		
6 Whitsunday Miners	11	3	2	6	18	23	-5	11		
7 Capricorn Cougars	12	3	2	7	14	24	-10	11		
8 Bundaberg Spirit	12	1	1	10	11	42	-31	4		

RESULTS										
Brisbane Strikers 7 (Thurtell 11,24,55,64, Own Goal 46, Hews 44, Farina 87) v Bundaberg Spirit 1 (Youngberry 23)										
Capricorn Cougars 3 (Evans 10, 42, McIntosh 25) v FNQ Bulls 2 (Rusch 64, Ruiz 76)										
NQ Razorbacks 1 (Searle 12) v QAS 0										
Whitsunday Miners 2 (Evetts 54, Harvey 91) v Sunshine Coast FC 3 (Henderson 26, Blackman 60, Bacon 94)										

NEXT ROUND										
ROUND 13										
Bundaberg Spirit v Whitsunday Miners										
Sat 19 June 7:00pm										
FNQ Bulls v Brisbane Strikers										
Sat 19 June 8:00pm										
QAS v Capricorn Cougars										
Sun 20 June 2:00pm										
Sunshine Coast FC v NQ Razorbacks										
Sun 20 June 1:30pm										

the race for a top four finish.

Those hopes of gaining ground on the Townsville side were dealt what proved to be a severe blow in only the twelfth minute of the match as Joshua Searle beat the keeper to hand the Razorbacks a 1-0 lead. Surprisingly in a match that featured two attack minded and gifted sides that would prove to be the only goal and QAS now lag seven points behind the third placed Razorbacks.

The final game of the round kicked off on Sunday afternoon in Mackay where Whitsunday Miners attempted to stop Sunshine Coast Fire's perfect run at eleven games. Little chance was given to Troy Mundy's side before that match and everything appeared to be going to plan for Sunshine Coast when Alex Henderson gave the visitors the lead in the 26th minute. The first half belonged to the Fire as Whitsunday had no answer to a solid Sunshine Coast defence and were lucky to go in at the break only 1-0 down.

The second half proved much more eventful as the Miners not only got onto the scoreboard but also almost managed to snatch a draw. Ryan Evetts levelled for the home side ten minutes after the break but that lasted only a mere six minutes before Shaun Blackman restored order to the proceedings and gave the Fire the lead.

That was how it looked like the match would finish but one minute into added time Graham Harvey slotted the ball past Sunshine Coast's keeper, sparking celebrations amongst the home support at the prospect of a 2-2 draw with the league leaders.



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# Cockburn topples Perth SC

By Jacob Kagi

**Cockburn City continued its stunning turnaround with a 3-2 victory over Perth SC in the Football West State Premier League.**

Cockburn came from behind twice to claim the win, with former Perth Glory and New Zealand international midfielder Adrian Webster getting the winner with five minutes remaining.

City climbed out of the relegation zone with the win, with Inglewood United falling to bottom, one point behind Cockburn.

It was City's second straight win since parting ways with former coach Scott Miller and appointing former Western Knights assistant coach Tony Castiello.

Castiello led Cockburn to a 3-2 win over his former side last week and made it a remarkable run with another victory over a top three side against Perth.

Veteran striker David Onoforo put Perth ahead after 38 minutes but his strike was cancelled out by a Rory Feely goal 13 minutes after the restart.

Onoforo again put Perth ahead in the 63rd minute but Wesley Britz levelled for Cockburn with 12 minutes remaining, before Webster sent the home fans into jubilation with the winning goal.

Perth has now lost two straight after falling 1-0 at home to Stirling Lions last week, which has seen it fall a point off the league lead into third place.

Floreat Athena replaced Perth at the top of the league after a 3-0 win at Mandurah City.

Branimir Mikulic put Floreat ahead four minutes before the break before Johnny Mirco doubled that advantage after 52 minutes.

Defender Jovo Pavlovic put the result beyond down with Athena's third with six minutes remaining, which saw it climb to the top of the league, ahead of Western Knights by three goals on goal difference.

Western Knights moved ahead of Perth into second spot with its 1-0 win at Sorrento SC.

Daniel Trim got the winner for Knights after 43 minutes, with his side holding on under decent pressure from Sorrento in the second half.

Sorrento has lost two straight after falling 2-0 to Mandurah last week, but remains in the top five, one point clear of Balcatta.

Armadale SC moved five points clear of the relegation zone with a 5-0 humiliation of Balcatta on the road.

The Premier League's new boys' honeymoon appears to be over, with Armadale getting an early lead and destroying it with a clinical performance in the second half.



Cockburn City (R) pulled off its second major upset in as many weeks by defeating Perth SC 3-2.  
PHOTO: COURTESY FOOTBALL WEST

Former Perth Glory star netted a hat-trick for Armadale, giving it the lead after 38 minutes before doubling it from the penalty spot after 59 and making the game 4-0 with his final goal in the 79th minute.

Import Matt Barlow scored Armadale's third in the 73rd minute before securing a brace with an 88th minute goal.

Armadale is within just two points of a top five spot after its stunning win, its second straight victory after a run of three consecutive losses prior to that.

Inglewood United fell into the drop zone despite earning a 1-1 draw at ECU Joondalup.

Rory Grant put Inglewood ahead when he converted a penalty after 17 minutes but Scott Blackmore responded for ECU with a goal just five minutes later.

Joondalup hasn't been defeated since round four but its seventh draw of the

season means it is still two points outside the top five, although it has a five point gap above the relegation zone.

Inglewood has only picked up two points from its last four games and has only one once since round seven, allowing Cockburn to overtake it with its good run.

Stirling Lions were largely unconvincing but were still good enough to pick up a 2-1 win over Swan United. Bobby Wilson put Stirling ahead with a 44th minute goal and set up Ludovic Boi for the sealer in the 70th minute.

Swan is just two points clear of the relegation zone after its second straight loss while Stirling is just three points clear of the league lead and its top five spot is safe with a six point gap.

Meanwhile, Robbie Fowler will make his first appearance for Perth Glory on Tuesday in a friendly match against

First Division side Rockingham City. Glory played a friendly against the National Training Centre last week without Fowler but the former Liverpool, Leeds United and Manchester City striker is expected to debut against the southern suburbs side.

Rockingham are bottom of the first division ladder and will fall to amateur ranks if it remains in that position and the Amateur League winner accepts a place in the state league.

It was also announced Glory will play a friendly against a Western Australian state team made up of State Premier League players.

The match will take place on July 28 at Litis Stadium, home of Floreat Athena, with the state squad to be announced in the next few weeks.

## 'GOD' COMING TO ROCKINGHAM

**Liverpool and England legend Robbie Fowler will make his debut for Perth Glory on Tuesday in a friendly against Rockingham City Representatives.**

It will be the first time fans can witness Fowler playing for the Hyundai A-League side before the upcoming season kicks off in August.

The match will take place at the Lark Hill Sportsplex with the match kicking off at 7pm.

It is expected that the star Glory signing will play a half of football.

All door sales and proceeds from the match will go directly towards supporting Rockingham City FC.

As one of the raffle prizes for the night Perth Glory has donated one of the first Perth Glory balls to be signed by the 2010/11 squad, including Robbie

Fowler.

Fowler can't wait for his first taste of competitive action since moving to Perth from North Queensland Fury.

"Looking forward to my first game with Perth Glory, obviously I'm still getting to know the lads but this will be a good chance to get some match practice together," he said.

Rockingham Mayor Barry Sammels is thrilled that 'God' will be coming to Lark Hill on June 15.

"I cannot wait to see Robbie Fowler wearing the purple and white of Perth Glory for the first time," he said.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for the Rockingham City Football Club and I encourage everyone to come down to on Tuesday for an evening they will never forget."

The curtain raiser match will be the Rockingham City Juniors kicking off at 5.30pm.

Tickets are available on the night at \$10 for adults and \$2 for children under 16 and concessions.



**Perth Glory**  
Pre season games confirmed.

Tuesday – 15th June, 7pm  
**Perth Glory v Rockingham**  
Lark Hill Sports Complex, Rockingham

Saturday – 19th June, 7pm  
**Perth Glory v Gold Coast United**  
Boomerang Oval, Newman

**Perth Glory China tour**  
July 2-13

Friday – 23rd July, 6pm  
**Adelaide United v Perth Glory**  
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide

Wednesday – 28th July, 7pm  
**Perth Glory v WA State team**  
Litis Stadium, Mt Hawthorn.

### WA LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Floreat Athena	13	8	2	3	31	14	17	26
2 Western Knights	13	8	2	3	32	18	14	26
3 Perth SC	13	8	1	4	28	24	4	25
4 Stirling Lions	13	7	2	4	19	16	3	23
5 Sorrento	13	5	3	5	23	26	-3	18
6 Balcatta	13	5	2	6	24	28	-4	17
7 Armadale	13	4	4	5	21	19	2	16
8 ECU Joondalup	13	3	7	3	29	29	0	16
9 Mandurah City	13	4	2	7	21	30	-9	14
10 Swan United	13	3	4	6	14	20	-6	13
11 Cockburn City	13	3	3	7	20	24	-4	12
12 Inglewood United	13	3	2	8	15	28	-13	11

### WA RESULTS

#### PREMIER DIVISION

**First Team**  
Mandurah City 0  
Floreat Athena 3 (Mikulic 41, Mirco 52, Pavlovic 84);

ECU Joondalup 1 (Blackmore 22)  
Inglewood United 1 (Grant 17P);

Sorrento 0 Western Knights 1 (Trim 43);

Stirling Lions 2 (Wilson 44, Boi 70)  
Swan United 1 (Shepherd 76);

Cockburn City 3 (Feely 58, Britz 78, Webster 85)  
Perth SC 2 (Onoforo 38, 63);

Balcatta 0  
Armadale 5 (J Robinson 38, 59P, 79, Barlow 73, 88)

**Reserves**  
Mandurah City 4 Floreat Athena 1; ECU Joondalup 3 Inglewood United 0; Sorrento 0 Western Knights 1; Stirling Lions 1 Swan United 1; Cockburn City 1 Perth SC 3; Balcatta 1 Armadale 4

**Under 18's**  
Mandurah City 1 Floreat Athena 10; ECU Joondalup 3 Inglewood United 0; Sorrento 3 Western Knights 1; Stirling Lions 3 Swan United 1; Cockburn City 3 Perth SC 1; Balcatta 0 Armadale 1

#### DIVISION ONE

**First Team**  
Wanneroo City 4 (Konomanyi 10, 11, McDonald 23, 26) Gosnells City 1 (Maguire 39); Fremantle Spirit 3 (Declan 25, Lanes 36, De Souza 73)  
Queens Park 1 (Phikomre 68); Morley-Windmills 3 (Griffiths 15, 67, Van der Ross 40) Canning City 3 (Onyuku 27, Trevisiol 37, Richardson 85); Ashfield 1(Culverwell 92P) Dianella White Eagles 3 (Wingell 10, 37, 84); Bunbury Forum Force 0 Bayswater City 2 (Marulanda 56, 68); Rockingham City Forrestfield United

**Reserves**  
Wanneroo City 4 Gosnells City 1; Fremantle Spirit 6 Queens Park 1; Morley-Windmills 0 Canning City 2; Ashfield 2 Dianella White Eagles 7; Bunbury Forum Force 4 Bayswater City 3; Rockingham City 0 Forrestfield United 6

**Under 18's**  
Wanneroo City 3 Gosnells City 2; Fremantle Spirit 9 Queens Park 2; Morley-Windmills 3 Canning City 7; Ashfield 0 Dianella White Eagles 3; Bunbury Forum Force 2 Bayswater City 3; Rockingham City 1 Forrestfield United 1

### NEXT ROUND

**Round 14**  
**Sat 19 Jun 3PM Swan United v Cockburn City**  
*Swan Italian Club*  
**Sat 19 Jun 3PM Western Knights v Floreat Athena** *Nash Field*  
**Sat 19 Jun 3PM Inglewood United v Balcatta**  
*The Clipsal Stadium*  
**Sat 19 Jun 3PM Perth SC v Sorrento**  
*BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens*  
**Sat 19 Jun 3PM Mandurah City v ECU Joondalup** *Hyundai Stadium*  
**Sun 20 Jun 3PM Armadale v Stirling Lions**  
*Alfred Skeet Oval*

### DIVISION ONE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Bunbury Forum Force	11	9	0	2	44	8	36	27
2 Bayswater City	11	9	0	2	41	13	28	27
3 Gosnells City	11	7	0	4	23	19	4	21
4 Wanneroo City	11	7	1	3	23	15	8	19
5 Forrestfield United	10	6	0	4	24	17	7	18
6 Dianella White Eagles	11	5	2	4	24	23	1	17
7 Canning City	11	4	3	4	22	25	-3	15
8 Morley-Windmills	11	3	3	5	14	22	-8	12
9 Fremantle SC	11	2	4	5	15	29	-14	10
10 Ashfield	11	2	1	8	24	35	-11	7
11 Queens Park	11	2	0	9	15	39	-24	6
12 Rockingham City	10	2	0	8	8	32	-24	6



# Bonnyrigg out in front after Marconi stumble

By Mike Salter

The Bonnyrigg White Eagles opened up a 3-point lead at the top of the NSW Premier League table on the weekend, thanks to a 3-0 rout of their bitter rivals Sydney United. Their co-leaders of the last two weeks, Marconi, were also in action on Saturday, suffering a jolt to their title hopes with a 2-1 home loss to the Sutherland Sharks. Details of that match can be found below.

In Sunday's fixtures, Blacktown City moved up to third with a 3-1 away win over the West Sydney Berries. The hosts had a man sent off just before half-time with the score at 1-1, and Blacktown ran away with the game after the break. Rockdale City and APIA failed to make any ground on the top five, the two sides drawing 2-2 at Bicentennial Park.

Sydney Olympic finally put an end to their horror run with a comfortable 3-0 win at home over Manly United, while a late goal for Bankstown City gave them a point against their hosts the South Coast Wolves. With six rounds of the competition to be played, the top five are six points ahead of the chasing pack, and the composition of the finals series looks almost certain.

**Marconi Stallions 1-2 Sutherland Sharks**  
Without their experienced attacker Matt Gordon, Marconi looked a much diminished side at Bossley Park on Saturday night, and were beaten with surprising ease by the defending champions.

The game had yet to settle into a proper pattern when Sutherland opened the scoring in the tenth minute. A lazy Marconi pass in midfield found the feet of Sutherland's lone striker Stephen McConologue, and the Scotsman played a well-weighted ball into the pass of Chris Price on the left; the in-form winger sped ahead of the chasing Marconi defenders, and placed the ball confidently past James Chronopoulos to give the away side the lead.

Two minutes later it might have been two, when another Scotsman, Neil Jablonski, showed excellent strength to bustle his way infield from the left and find space just outside the Marconi box. His eventual volley, however, flew over the bar.

Sutherland were in total control in the succeeding minutes, and only a fine save from Chronopoulos prevented Blake Powell from making it 2-0 on 19 minutes, when Jim Bakis, starting in the centre for once, released him on the right flank for a narrow-angled shot.

Four minutes later, however, Marconi were breached again. A quickly-taken, shrewd free kick from the ubiquitous Bakis reached McConologue on the edge of the area, and the striker pivoted sharply to fire past Chronopoulos. A sucker-punch goal.

Marconi were being outplayed in every department, and it was something of a surprise when a neat one-two on the edge of the area produced an excellent chance for their left-back Giorgio Speranza just after the half-hour. Price popped up in the box again on 34 minutes to connect with a cross from the right, but couldn't quite bring the ball under control for a shot. Three minutes later, McConologue went close to a second



Bonnyrigg White Eagles go outright top of the FNSW standings after beating Sydney United 3-0.

PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW



Rockdale City Suns and APIA shared the spoils in a 2-2 draw over the weekend. PHOTO: COURTESY FNSW

with a glancing header from Paul Kohler's accurate cross.

Marconi pulled a goal back on 38 minutes after a sweet move on the left ended with the ball being played across to Lawrence Braude on the right. The teenager attempted a wild shot at goal, which somehow made its way to Matthew Hall in the area. Marconi's young marksman made no mistake, a right-footed shot giving him a goal against his former club.

There were chances at both ends in quick succession towards the end of the half. First a snap-shot from Marconi's quick

winger Mitchell Mallia stung the hands of Nathan Denham, and then the Kohler-McConologue combination produced a carbon copy of their earlier effort, McConologue's header again drifting just wide. Former Newcastle Jet Kohler is proving a more than able replacement for Michael Katz, Sutherland's long-term injury victim.

The second half saw Marconi committed to attack, but their moves regularly faltered at the key moment. Brenton Rhodes at least forced Denham into action with a header on 55 minutes, and just after the hour a thumping free kick from Tim McGowan

was deflected by a Sutherland head for a corner just in time.

Yet another chance for McConologue arrived on 69 minutes, when Bakis slipped him through in the centre. Chronopoulos was again up to the task, coming out quickly to smother. It was the last chance of note, as Marconi forced Sutherland back to the edge of their own box for the final fifteen minutes but couldn't find a way past their impressive rearguard. A crucial three points for the side from the Shire.

NSW LADDER			
	P	W	L Pts
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	16	10	5 35
Marconi Stallions	16	10	2 32
Blacktown City FC	16	9	4 31
Sydney United	16	8	5 29
Sutherland Sharks	16	8	2 26
Rockdale City Suns	15	4	8 20
Bankstown City	16	5	3 18
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	15	5	3 18
Sydney Olympic	16	4	2 14
South Coast Wolves	16	3	4 13
Manly United FC	14	3	3 12
West Sydney Berries	16	2	5 11

NSW RESULTS	
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 16:	
FIRST GRADE:	
Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 (Jamie McMaster 10/76m Milorad Simonovic 51m)	
Sydney United 0	
Marconi Stallions 1 (Matthew Hall 39m)	
Sutherland Sharks 2 (Christopher Price 10m Stephen McConalogue 23m).	
Sydney Olympic 3 (Matthew Mayora 17m Dimitri Petratos 19m Alan Kovacevic 80m)	
Manly United FC 0	
Rockdale City Suns 2	
(Pece Zaikovski 36m Pece Apolevski 63m)	
APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2	
(Martin Vass 34m Anthony Hartshorn 47m)	
West Sydney Berries 1 (Ryo Maekawa 12m)	
Blacktown City FC 3 (Tolgay Ozbey 38m pen/57m Ante Deur 74m)	
South Coast Wolves 1 (Tynan Diaz 30m)	
Bankstown City 1 (Robert Mileski 84m).	

GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Sydney United 3, Marconi Stallions 2 Sutherland Sharks 1, Sydney Olympic 2 Manly United FC 1, Rockdale City Suns 1 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 2, West Sydney Berries 1 Blacktown City FC 1, South Coast Wolves 0 Bankstown City

GRADE 18: Marconi Stallions 0 Sutherland Sharks 1. Sydney Olympic 2 Manly United FC 1.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 13: FIRST GRADE: Granville Rage 5 (K Holbrook 31/90m N Bobo 18/66m F Graham 44m) Central Coast Lightning 1 (B Glachan 1m), Sydney University 0 Dulwich Hill 1 (A Faria 31m), Macarthur Rams 3 (S Messam 69/73m C Cooley 81m) Fraser Park FC 0, St George FC 1 (I De Jesus 94m pen) Parramatta Eagles 2 (S Arde 49m M Clowes 83m), FC Bossy Liverpool 2 (E Popal 43m A Asanovic 38m) Spirit FC 1 (T Simpson 86m), Northern Tigers 6 (P Sungyun 35/73m P Davies 13m Pen T Spencer 27m M Glanville 77m B Salameh 88m) Mt Druitt Town Rangers 2 (Caetano Lima 3m L Berbis 22m).

GRADE 20: Granville Rage 0 Central Coast Lightning 1, Sydney University 5 Dulwich Hill 0, Macarthur Rams 4 Fraser Park FC 0, St George FC 3 Parramatta Eagles 0.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 13: FIRST GRADE: Schofield Scorpions FC 3 (Tim Simpson 38m L Boyd 59m Z Walters 87m) Inter Lions 4 (D Arcella 19m D Di Mento 31/82m N Rouco 86m), Mounties Wanderers FC 2 (S Goodwin 91m S Lloyd 94m) Camden Tigers 2 (D Semaan 22m G Mackechnie 88m), Blacktown Spartans 3 (R Iredale 36m S Zahra 80/85m) Stanmore Hawks 2 (E Squillaciotti 46m A Papadopoulos 70m).

GRADE 20: Schofield Scorpions FC 0 Inter Lions 1, Mounties Wanderers FC 1 Camden Tigers 1, Blacktown Spartans 2 Stanmore Hawks 0.

NEXT ROUND	
<b>Round 17</b>	
3pm Sun 20/Jun Rockdale City Suns v Syd Olympic	Bicentennial Park Sth
3pm Sun 20/Jun Manly Utd v West Syd Berries	Cromer Park
3pm Sun 20/Jun Bankstown City v B'rigg White Eagles	Jensen Park
3pm Sun 20/Jun APIA L'hardt Tigers v S'land Sharks	Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 20/Jun Blacktown City v Sth Coast Wolves	Lily Homes
4pm Sun 20/Jun Syd Utd v Marconi Stallions	Sydney Utd Sports Centre



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# THE MATILDAS

*QUEENS OF THE AFC ASIA CUP 2010*



**AFC WOMEN'S ASIA CUP FINAL | AUSTRALIA 1-1 DPR KOREA | AUSTRALIA WINS 5-4 ON PENS. | SUN 30TH MAY 2010 | CHENGDU, CHINA**

PHOTO: PAUL LAU



# Sth Hobart ‘title express’ continues

By Walter Pless

South Hobart continued on their merry way to the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title on Saturday with a 5-1 win over fourth-placed Clarence United at South Hobart.

The win kept them 13 points ahead of second-placed Tilford Zebras, who beat sixth-placed New Town Eagles 4-2 at home at KGV Park on Saturday night.

Glenorchy Knights ended a run of seven games without a win when they downed bottom-side Olympia Warriors 2-1 at KGV Park on Friday evening.

Kingborough Lions United moved up one place and back into fourth position with a 1-0 home win over second-last Taroonaa at Lightwood Park on Saturday.

South Hobart appeared to be playing in gum boots in the first half against Clarence. They had no mobility and their passing was sloppy, which played into the hands of a Clarence side that still has vivid memories of beating South Hobart last season to collect both the State premiership and the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy.

South Hobart’s lethargy was punished after only two minutes when central defender Ben Parker headed home Sam McIntyre’s free-kick from deep on the right. How South Hobart allowed Parker an easy header from inside the 6-yard box is a mystery as they have the best defence in the competition.

Ben Hamlett should have made it 2-0 in the 14th minute. David Hop-pitt beat Jim Pennicott on the left and sent over a perfect cross, but Hamlett fired over the bar from close range when it would surely have been easier to score.

South Hobart were a side transformed in the second half. Suddenly, they found space and used the width of the park to perfection, while their passing finally began to click. They became the well-oiled machine that their fans were used to seeing.

Clarence survived miraculously in the 50th minute following a corner by Hickey. There was confusion in the Clarence defence and Jim Pennicott and Tom Roach both had goal-bound shots blocked on the line before the tension was released when Daniel Brown blazed wildly over the bar.

The introduction of Kostas Kanakaris in place of youngster Andy Brennan in the 57th minute turned the tide in South’s favour. Hickey suddenly found space on the left and Kanakaris’s mobility and speed spelled curtains for the visitors.

Jonathon Lo equalised on the hour after Hickey’s left-wing cross and Hugh Ludford’s downward header.

Hickey was being given acres of



Kostas Kanakaris turned the tide in South's favour against Clarence with two goals. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

space on the left and it was all he needed to swing the game in his side’s favour. In the 66th minute, a long throw-in from the left by Brown was turned in by Kanakaris, while three minutes later, Hickey’s left-wing cross enabled Lo to set up Kanakaris for his second and South’s third.

Roach flashed a shot just wide in the 72nd minute, while in the 80th minute, he made it 4-1 from Lo’s pass after Kanakaris had initiated an attack down the right.

Five minutes from the end, Greg Downes came on as a substitute and scored with his first touch from a free-kick. He lifted the ball over the wall and Sweeney could only turn it against a post and then watch as the ball dribbled over the line.

Clarence had a sting in their tail, however, and Mattias Toghil smashed a long-range effort against Sam Kruijver’s left-hand upright in the 88th minute, while seconds later, Toghil fed Sam Reibel through the middle, but the youngster’s tame shot was blocked with his feet by Kruijver as he fell backwards.

Olympia took the lead against Glenorchy Knights through Alex Nandan in the 21st minute after a mix-up at the back between Anthony Grundy and keeper Ben Peter.

It took Knights only two minutes to draw level. Hugh Richardson fouled Corey Smith and Smith’s free-kick was not cleared properly by the Olympia defence. The ball fell to Jade Clay, whose shot was deflected

to Amadu Koroma, and the youngster slotted the ball past Dmitri Nester and inside the far post.

Nester was in excellent form and denied the Knights on several occasions in the second half, but he was helpless in the 69th minute when Smith gained possession just outside the box and lobbed the ball over the keeper for the winner.

A 79th minute goal by Tim Polmear gave Kingborough Lions United their win over Taroonaa.

New Town Eagles took the lead against Zebras midway through the first half when Jason Voss could only parry Blayne Hudson’s free-kick and Jacob Clamp rifled home the loose ball.

Zebras were almost level in stoppage time at the end of the first half, but Paul Cairns’s powerful shot came back off the bar and hit goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford on the back before rolling wide.

In the closing seconds of the half, Henry Fagg headed the equaliser from Jonathon Ladic’s lob.

Ricky Self made it 2-1 for Zebras with a stunning volley from the left of the box in the 53rd minute, while Ben Crosswell made it 3-1 in the 78th minute after running on to Ladic’s long clearance and rounding Pitchford.

Adam McKeown pulled a goal back for Eagles in the 92nd minute after Andrew Clark’s pass, but Jayden Welch added the Zebras’ fourth seconds later when Ladic’s precise pass put him through the defence.

NORTH RESULTS
Riverside Olympic -v- Launceston United 10-0
Ulverstone -v- Devonport City 0-2
Burnie United -v- Launceston City 3-0
Prospect Knights -v- Somerset 4-3

SOUTH RESULTS
Glenorchy Knights -v- Hobart Olympia 2-1
Kingborough Lions -v- Taroonaa 1-0
South Hobart -v- Clarence United 5-1
Tilford Zebras -v- New Town Eagles 4-2

NORTH LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northern Rangers	9	6	3	0	31	13	21
Riverside Olympic	10	6	2	2	33	13	20
Devonport City	9	6	2	1	33	14	20
Prospect Knights	10	6	1	3	35	25	19
Ulverstone	10	5	1	4	29	22	16
Burnie United	10	5	0	5	36	21	15
Somerset	10	4	0	6	22	36	12
Launceston City	10	2	0	8	19	30	6
Launceston United	10	0	0	10	9	70	0

SOUTH LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	13	12	1	0	43	9	37
Tilford Zebras	13	7	3	3	35	28	24
Glenorchy Knights	12	6	3	3	27	13	21
Kingborough Lions	13	5	3	4	17	22	21
Clarence United	13	4	4	5	27	29	16
New Town Eagles	12	2	4	6	21	26	10
Taroona	11	2	2	7	16	31	8
Hobart Olympia	13	0	4	9	13	33	4

NTH NEXT ROUND
Saturday 19th June Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Round 2
Round 12 Saturday 26th June Launceston United v Nthn Rangers Birch Avenue 2.30pm Riverside Olympic v Prospect Knights Windsor Park 2.30pm Somerset v Burnie United Cardigan Street 2.30pm Devonport City v Launceston City Valley Road 2.30pm Ulverstone - Bye

STH NEXT ROUND
Saturday 19th June Statewide Lakoseljac Cup Round 2
Round 14 Monday 14th June New Town Eagles v South Hobart Clare Street 2.30pm Clarence United v Kingborough Lions Wentworth Park 2.30pm Taroonaa v Glenorchy Knights Kelvedon Park 2.30pm Hobart Olympia v Tilford Zebras South Hobart 2.30pm



Jonathon Lo equalised for South Hobart against Clarence. PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

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# Knight's armour shines through

By Nat Adamopoulos

As most of us settle into the month ahead of World Cup fever and sleepless nights, the local leagues continue to be played with some games providing just as much entertainment as the big stage. Round 10 marked the half-way mark of the FFSA 2010 season with all teams now focusing on getting maximum points from the remainder of matches to secure top five positions.

Well they say a week is along time in football and it couldn't be more true for those out at the Croatian Sports Centre the home of the Raiders Football Club. After the poor start to the 2010 season the club let go coach John Duthie and has appointed John 'Kossie' Kosmina in his place with Buggy Nyskohus as caretaker coach until Kossie returns from the World Cup media duties. But the change in command did not prove fruitful for the club as they went down 1-3 to Para Hills Knights in what was a game that had everything. Think of a scenario that can happen in football and this game had it. Within the first half hour of the match there was a goal being scored for either side, a penalty awarded, an early substitution and a straight red card being handed out.

The first goal of the match came in the opening two minutes as Para Hills intercepted a ball in the midfield that found Joel Allwright on his own to beat a one on one contest with the keeper Dan Atkins. Two minutes later The Knights Matthew Mullen sustained a knock to his left thigh and knee that eventually forced him to come off by the tenth minute. Then a most controversial moment in the match after a Raiders freekick was taken from the left field near the corner flag Referee Toth seeing an infringement in the box and awarding a penalty for the homeside. Captain Richie Alagich stepped up to take the spot kick and drilled it low and quick past The Knights keeper Ben Moore to the put the game



Galaxy-v-Strikers Keeper Takanashi pulls off one of his many saves for the day. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

back at square one at the 11th minute. At the 24th minute of the game the Knights were taken down to ten men as Shane Tobias was flashed a red card from the referee for obvious dissent after a certain decision was made around the goal area. Raiders were unable to take advantage of the ten men Knights and in fact were their own worst enemy when on the half hour, an advancing Rhys Townsend playing against his old team went for a run down the right flank. His intended pass into midfield went into the back of Raiders defender Dalibor Barisic which deflected the ball back into his field of play to cross in to the box, where Danny Hain was waiting to clear but instead poked it into the bottom left of the net past Atkins to give the Knights the lead.

The start of the second half also saw plenty of action, young Craig Goodwin missing an opportunity to score at the 48th minute mark and moments later, another

red card send off yet again balancing out the game for both sides. This time it went to Raiders Nic Kuzman for his second yellow, bringing down Knights defender David Bounds as he took a run down the left of the park towards goal. Five minutes later the Knights put the game to bed when Townsend eventually weaved his way around the Raiders defence and slotted the ball home to score the third and the nail in the proverbial coffin for his former club. Although Raiders did have several chances in the latter part of the game they never really looked like threatening the lead of the Para Hills Knights, therefore giving them the three well earned points and Coach Kenny Tosh's 5th successive win.

Other matches in Round 10 The Call To Arms round in support of the Cancer Council saw Adelaide Galaxy draw with Western Strikers 1-1, Adelaide Cobras defeat Cumberland 2-1, Campbelltown

SUPER LEAGUE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
MetroStars	10	7	2	1	29	12	17	23		
Campbelltown	10	6	2	2	19	13	6	20		
Para Hills	10	5	3	2	16	13	3	18		
Adelaide Blue Eagles	10	5	2	3	21	13	8	17		
Western Strikers	10	4	3	3	22	19	3	15		
Adelaide Galaxy	10	3	6	1	13	10	3	15		
Adelaide City	10	3	2	5	11	19	-8	11		
Raiders	10	1	4	5	10	15	-5	7		
Adelaide Cobras	10	2	1	7	14	29	-15	7		
Cumberland Utd	10	1	1	8	15	27	-12	4		

NEXT ROUND										
<b>Round 11</b>										
<b>Sat 19/06/2010</b>										
<b>Adelaide Cobras vs Raiders</b>										
<i>3pm Weigall Oval</i>										
<b>Campbelltown vs MetroStars</b>										
<i>3pm Newton Village Sports Complex</i>										
<b>Para Hills vs Adelaide Galaxy</b>										
<i>3pm The Paddocks</i>										
<b>Western Strikers vs Adelaide Blue Eagles</b>										
<i>3pm Carnegie Reserve</i>										
<b>Sun 20/06/2010</b>										
<b>Adelaide City vs Cumberland Utd</b>										
<i>3pm Adelaide City Park</i>										

PREMIER LEAGUE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
Croydon	10	5	3	2	17	11	6	18		
Pirates	10	4	4	2	18	13	5	16		
Adelaide Comets	10	5	1	4	21	19	2	16		
Adelaide Hills	10	5	1	4	19	17	2	16		
Enfield City	10	4	3	3	20	20	0	15		
White City Woodville	10	3	2	5	13	15	-2	11		
Salisbury Utd	10	3	0	7	11	20	-9	9		
West Adelaide	10	3	0	7	8	28	-20	9		
Adelaide Olympic	10	1	3	6	13	17	-4	6		

City score a resounding and strong 2-0 win over in-form Adelaide Blue Eagles and league leaders MetroStars surprisingly notch up a scoreless draw with Adelaide City which gives the black and whites something to start building on.

The Federation Cup Quarter Finals are being played on the public holiday Monday June 14th.

SA RESULTS										
<b>DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE</b>										
<b>Round 10 Results</b>										
<b>Adelaide Galaxy 1 (B.Rayner)</b>										
<b>Western Strikers 1 (C.Flanagan) (HT 0-1)</b>										
<b>Best – Galaxy (E.Metanomski, M.Debono, S.Kidd)</b>										
<b>Strikers (Y.Sudic, T.Takahashi, C.Middleton)</b>										
<b>Res – Galaxy 1 Strikers 4</b>										
<b>U19 - Galaxy 3 Strikers 3</b>										
<b>Adelaide Cobras 2 (D.Turner, M.Cavallaro)</b>										
<b>Cumberland 1 (D.Carter) (HT 0-1)</b>										
<b>Best – Cobras (P.Karritevlis, D.Turner, M.Cavallaro)</b>										
<b>Cumberland (R.Lippett, D.Carter, N.Young)</b>										
<b>Res – Cobras 0 Cumberland 0</b>										
<b>U19 – Cobras 1 Cumberland 2</b>										
<b>Campbelltown City 2 (M.Deegan, M.D'Aloisio)</b>										
<b>Adelaide Blue Eagles 0 (HT 0-1)</b>										
<b>Best – Campbelltown (M.D'Aloisio, M.Menechella, S.Piotto)</b>										
<b>Blue Eagles (G.Lagati, F.Filleti, M.Nicholson)</b>										
<b>Res – Campbelltown 0 Blue Eagles 2</b>										
<b>U19 – Campbelltown 1 Blue Eagles 0</b>										
<b>Raiders 1 (R.Alagich)</b>										
<b>Para Hills 3 (J.Allwright, R.Townsend, T.O.G.) (HT 1-2)</b>										
<b>Best – Raiders (S.Brennan, D.Scordo, R.Alagich)</b>										
<b>Para Hills (A.Mullen, A.Goulding, J.Allwright)</b>										
<b>Res – Raiders 1 Para Hills 1</b>										
<b>U19 – Raiders 1 Para Hills 1</b>										
<b>MetroStars 0</b>										
<b>Adelaide City 0 (HT 0-0)</b>										
<b>Best – MetroStars (D.Godley, T.Sarris, D.Mettyear) Adel City (J.Cummins, M.Halliday, E.Vlassis)</b>										
<b>Res – MetroStars 0 Adel City 2</b>										
<b>U19 – MetroStars 5 Adel City 0</b>										
<b>DEVINE HOMES PREMIER LEAGUE</b>										
<b>Salisbury United 2 (S.Butler, R.Harris)</b>										
<b>Modbury 4 (S.Pearce 2, M.Francis 2) (HT 1-0)</b>										
<b>Best – Salisbury (D.McKenna, J.Miller, R.Harris)</b>										
<b>Modbury (M.Francis, T.McSorley, D.Crowl)</b>										
<b>Res – Salisbury 3 Modbury 6</b>										
<b>U19 – Salisbury 0 Modbury 5</b>										
<b>Croydon 3 (K.Kosznik, L.Klimek, B.Tarabar) Enfield City 2 (M.Graham, Ja.Costa) (HT 1-0)</b>										
<b>Best – Croydon (L.Klimek, B.Tarabar, F.Violi)</b>										
<b>Enfield (J.Cristarella, M.Graham, Ja.Costa)</b>										
<b>Res – Croydon 4 Enfield 1</b>										
<b>U19 – Croydon 1 Enfield 1</b>										
<b>Adelaide Olympic 0</b>										
<b>Pirates 0 (HT 0-0)</b>										
<b>Best – Olympic (A.Ilandorio, St.Parrisos, A.Orlando) Pirates (Markham, J.Coley, J.Mavromatis)</b>										
<b>Res – Olympic 0 Pirates 0</b>										
<b>U19 – Olympic 1 Pirates 3</b>										
<b>Adelaide Comets 3 (N.Day, S.Catanzaro, N.Fleetwood)</b>										
<b>Adelaide Hills 1 (N.Rathjen) (HT 0-0)</b>										
<b>Best – Comets (N.Day, D.Voss-Piotto, N.Fleetwood)</b>										
<b>Adel Hills</b>										
<b>Res – Comets 4 Adel Hills 1</b>										
<b>U19 – Comets 2 Adel Hills 2</b>										
<b>West Adelaide 0</b>										
<b>White City Woodville 2 (N.Mileusenic, S.Jovanovic) (HT 0-0)</b>										
<b>Best – West Adel (D.Lambrinos, Y.Sarris, S.Kezios) White City</b>										
<b>(A.Jackson, N.Mileusenic, S.Jovanovic)</b>										
<b>Res – West Adel 3 White City 1</b>										
<b>U19 - West Adel 3 White City 2</b>										



Show me the love!





Daryll Hall

Woden Valley FC

16

FULL NAME: Daryll Hall  
BIRTHPLACE: Bishop Auckland, England  
BIRTH DATE: 121/04/1985  
HEIGHT: 6ft 3in  
WEIGHT: 14stone  
MARRIED: Definitely not!  
CAR: In Australia I drive the Green Machine! In England I drive an Audi A3  
NICKNAME: Dash/Canberra Creamer  
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Blackburn Rovers, Sunderland RCA, Durham City  
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Durham County (10 caps)  
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: Paul Gascoigne  
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Cristiano Ronaldo / Lionel Messi  
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Robbie Fowler  
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Alan Shearer!!  
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Wayne Rooney!!  
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Playing at Anfield, home of Liverpool FC, in the FA Sunday Cup – a big tournament in England.  
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Newcastle United beating Manchester United 5-0 in the Premier League when Philippe Albert scored a brilliant chip.  
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: I don't get to many goals unfortunately, but the first goal I scored for the county against Luton Town is probably the most memorable one.  
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Watching my dad play from the sidelines when I was about three years old.  
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Either playing centre half with my dad on the same team or watching my mate dak (pull down the shorts) a ref. That was good!  
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not making it as a professional player after two attempts and not trying harder at school.  
WORST INJURY: I've been quite lucky with injuries but ankle ligaments that kept me out for four weeks was the worst I have suffered.  
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Sunday mornings after a big night out!  
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: The one that does the best food after!  
SUPERSTITIONS: Saluting a magpie when you see one.  
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: In the morning I'd have poached eggs on toast then a little bit of pasta or something light for lunch and a chocolate bar.  
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Tackling and heading.  
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Trying to take people on! I wasn't made for it – I'm no Ronaldo!  
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Newcastle United  
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: MMA (mixed Martial Arts) and Golf  
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Mike Tyson  
FAVOURITE FOODS: Chicken, Steak and Roast Dinners  
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Jim Carrey, Will Ferrell, Steve Carroll  
HOBBIES: MMA, going to the gym, nights out/ in, reading cooking  
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Australia  
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Magaluf  
IDEAL DATE: 6ft blonde, very chesty, easy..... going I mean!  
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Friends, Shameless, Inbetweeners  
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Indie Rock / Kings of Leon  
FAVOURITE FILM: Blow, Pulp Fiction, 40 Year-Old Virgin, Dumb and Dumber  
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Newcastle home shirt in about the year 2000  
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: I can play in midfield and I'd won the lottery.  
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My dad and good team mates /coaches.  
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Erm. I know you can't play without them and I respect them all at whatever level but there are some bad old refs out there!!  
FOOTBALL AMBITION: To keep playing at the highest standard I can and to keep learning off the old heads.  
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? : Jenna Jameson or Jose Mourinho  
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S WORLD CUP: Spain or England

PHOTO: RUSS GIBBS



# Brilliant Belwest hits baker's dozen

By Russ Gibbs

Brilliant Belwest Foxes went goal-hungry at Calwell with a 13-1 drubbing of Brindabella Blues on a pleasant Sunday afternoon in the nations capital. Leading scorers Hope Wilkins and Cian Maciejewski led the way with five goals apiece whilst Kim Crocker, Elizabeth Pearson and late substitute Emma Gillies completed a comprehensive away victory.

Belwest dominated the match from the outset threatening to score on a couple of occasions before finally breaching the Blues rearguard in the tenth minute when young prodigy Wilkins opened her account for the afternoon. Five minutes later the youngster added a second and the writing was on the wall for an out-gunned Brindabella team who were no match for a fast-paced Foxes who were too rapid in their movement for the Blues to counter.

For Brindabella there were the positives of a goal from Kate Brown-Beresford, taking advantage of a collision between goalkeeper Melanie Luksa and defender Emma Beaumont to slam into the net from close range, and the brilliance of goalkeeper Emma Gronow who made numerous fantastic saves to deny Pat Mills' team an even bigger winning margin. It took Belwest less than sixty seconds to respond to the Blues reducing the gap to 2-1 with Cian Maciejewski rounding Gronow to score and, after that, goals came at regular stages with the 8-1 half-time lead built to 13-1 by the referee's final whistle.

Striker Ashleigh Palombi followed up her eight-goal haul last weekend with a further brace as Woden Valley defeated an under-powered Weston Creek 3-0 at Woden Park in the winter sunshine. The in-form goal-getter put Woden ahead in the first half in which they mostly dominated territory and possession.

Missing the experience of the Crittenden sisters, Sarah and Rachel, Weston



Hope Wilkins scorer of five goals and leading scorer in WPL with 14. PHOTO: RUSS GIBBS

Creek were forced to rely on some of their fringe first-team players and they performed admirably in denying Woden the time and space required to create goal scoring opportunities in the first half. However, Woden did create plenty after the interval and, but for the brilliance of Weston Creek shot-stopper Michelle Tifan, could have added a lot more to their tally then the goals struck by Catherine Brown, her third of the season, and Palmobi who took her personal goal tally to twelve.

Tifan made five or six superb saves to deny the home team a chance to build a substantial advantage, clearly earning player-of-the-match honours ahead of her plucky team mates. Weston were unlucky to score themselves in creating a few sporadic opening's but Woden were deserved winners with the three points opening up a six-point cushion between Ed Hollis team and Canberra FC in third with FC not playing until Tuesday evening.

Tuggeranong United failed to break-down a tough ANU WFC team at Kam-bah on Sunday afternoon with the match ending in a 0-0 draw. United had a strong

game dominating most of the play against the students, however the ANU WFC goalkeeper, Kate Garrock, did exceptionally well to hold off United's highly rated striking duo Julie Ibarra and Freyja Jacobsen. With Jennifer Malbon creating numerous chances from her position on the wing United were disappointed to not be able to break down the stubborn visitors. Having seen Head Coach Kath St. Laurent resign in midweek, Tuggeranong turned to reserve coach Kieran Angel to lead the team and he would have been happy with the approach play of his new charges, if not the finishing which, for once, left something to be desired.

## ROGIC STRIKES TO DULL PANTHERS ROAR

A single goal from Futsalroo international Tom Rogic was enough for ANU FC to record a second successive win and move up to seventh in the Gatorade Premier League following their rescheduled Round 4 match at Hawker Football Centre on a very cold Friday evening in Canberra.

Rogic's piece of inspiration, his second goal of the season, was the difference between two evenly matched outfits and has kept the university club in the hunt for a finals place cutting the deficit between themselves and their vanquished opponents to only four points as the competition approaches the half-way mark.

The Panthers weren't without their chances though and the ANU FC defence had to be fully focused for the full ninety minutes to deny the visitors the chance to level the scores and earn the point that would have taken them to third on the ladder. Following their win over Goulburn Strikers the students are moving in the right direction and, after a difficult opening to the 2010 season, seem to be finding their feet with their collection of youthful talent coming to terms with life in the ACT top flight.

Whilst disappointed to not have taken anything from this fixture the Panthers are still well in the hunt for the top-four and, with the return of the suspended Nathan Walker another bonus, will bounce back from this loss ahead of their Round 9 clash.

# EPL referee McDonald's Kanga Cup Special Guest

English Premier League Referee Peter Walton has been announced as the special guest of the 2010 McDonald's Kanga Cup to be held in Canberra from July 4th to 9th. Peter will attend in the capacity of motivator and mentor to encourage young referees and share his experiences of refereeing professionally with the 120 referees of the 2010 McDonald's Kanga Cup.

McDonald's Kanga Cup Tournament Director Adam Castle said 'It is a massive coup for us to get someone of Peter's calibre to the 2010 McDonald's Kanga Cup. We hope Peter's presence will help inspire young referees to develop further and stay involved in the game.'

Peter is a full time referee with the Premier Game Match Officials Limited in the United Kingdom and has officiated some of the game's biggest names including Fernando Torres, Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and Wayne Rooney amongst many others. He is also a FIFA international referee.

During the 2009/2010 Premier League season Peter refereed English Premier League big guns Chelsea, Manchester United, Arsenal and Liverpool as well as Everton and Fulham, clubs of Socceros Tim Cahill and Mark Schwarzer respectively. One of his games was the 7-0 thrashing of Aston Villa by English Premier League champions Chelsea.

Walton is no stranger to the big occasion though having run the line in the 1996 FA Cup Final, when an Eric Cantona goal saw Manchester United defeat Liverpool 1-0, as well as taking charge of the 2008 Community Shield between Manchester United and Portsmouth and a massive international match in 1998 when Germany took on Brazil.

Local owner and Licensee of four McDonald's Restaurants in ACT, Hani Sidaros, said "The 2010 McDonald's Kanga Cup tournament is set to be a great multicultural event. We are thrilled that International Premier League Referee, Peter Walton can join us this year to inspire tournament refer-



Which way to the Kanga Cup? EPL referee Peter Walton points the way for Liverpool's Fernando Torres.

ees and share his experiences. Junior players will also have the opportunity to make new friends from a variety of backgrounds and further develop their football skills."

"McDonald's is pleased to be able to support the Kanga Cup once again. The McDonald's Kanga Cup is about sportsmanship and camaraderie, fair-play,

diversity and commitment. This annual event is a fantastic opportunity for local football clubs to motivate their junior players to train hard in the pursuit of a common goal," concluded Hani.

English Premier League referee Peter Walton will be in Canberra from July 4th-9th.

## NEXT ROUND

### Round 9

Sat 19 Jun KO 6pm Belconnen Utd v Monaro Panthers  
McKellar Park  
Sun 20 Jun KO 3pm ANU FC v Tuggeranong Utd  
ANU North Oval 1  
Sun 20 Jun KO 3pm Goulburn Strikers v Canberra FC  
Cookbundoon  
Sun 20 Jun KO 3pm Cooma Tigers v Canberra City  
Nijong Oval  
Sun 20 Jun KO 5pm Canberra Olympic v Woden Valley  
Hawker Football Centre

## LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 Canberra FC	8	6	2	0	32	5	+27	20	
2 Belconnen United	8	5	1	2	19	13	+6	16	
3 Canberra City	7	4	1	2	12	8	+4	13	
4 Monaro Panthers	8	4	1	3	12	10	+2	13	
5 Cooma Tigers	8	3	3	2	14	9	+5	12	
6 Canberra Olympic	8	3	2	3	9	10	-1	11	
7 ANU FC	8	3	0	5	10	18	-8	9	
8 Goulburn Strikers	7	2	2	3	15	11	+4	8	
9 Tuggeranong United	8	1	2	5	9	29	-20	5	
10 Woden Valley	8	1	0	7	7	25	-18	3	

## WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	10	10	0	0	54	6	+48	30	
2 Woden Valley	9	7	1	1	38	6	+32	21	
3 Canberra FC	9	4	3	2	19	22	-3	15	
4 Weston Creek	10	4	2	4	18	17	+1	14	
5 Belconnen United	9	3	3	3	17	10	+7	12	
6 Tuggeranong United	10	3	2	5	22	26	-4	11	
7 ANU WFC	9	1	1	7	6	25	-19	4	
8 Brindabella Blues	10	0	0	10	7	70	-63	0	

## ACT RESULTS

ANU FC 1 (Tom Rogic 20') Monaro Panthers 0

**LEADING SCORERS**  
8 Michael Spaleta (Canberra FC)  
6 Alex Castro, Paul Ivanic (both Canberra FC), Brody Willis (Goulburn Strikers)  
5 Danny Macor (Belconnen United), Goran Veljanovski (Monaro Panthers)  
4 Tai Smith, Dustin Wells (both Belconnen United), Misko Naumoski (Canberra City), Adam Spaleta (Canberra FC), Daniel Gecic (Cooma Tigers), Sam Taylor (Goulburn Strikers), Alex Weber (Tuggeranong United), Carlos Salazar (Woden Valley)

### WPL

Brindabella Blues 1 (Kate Brown-Beresford 17')  
Belwest Foxes 13 (Hope Wilkins 10', 15', 41', 51', 62', Cian Maciejewski 18', 27', 37' (pen), 49', 63', Kim Crocker 19', Elizabeth Pearson 39', Emma Gillies 84')

Woden Valley 3 (Ashleigh Palombi (2), Catherine Brown) Weston Creek 0

Tuggeranong United 0 ANU WFC 0

**LEADING SCORERS**  
14 Hope Wilkins (Belwest Foxes)  
13 Cian Maciejewski (Belwest Foxes)  
12 Ashleigh Palombi (Woden Valley)  
11 Julie Ibarra (Tuggeranong United)  
9 Aurelia Bullot (Canberra FC)  
8 Caitlin Munoz (Belconnen United)

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27



[illegible]

## Junior Player Profile | Gavin de Niese

# Gavin makes waves with River

**If we are going to talk about quality young players, we can't go pass Gavin de Niese, after all, how many players at the tender age of 14 has fans that come to watch him play?**

He scored 50 goals in the 12A during 2008 season as striker, 24 during 2009 season under 13's Super-league playing as midfielder, and he is part of the under 15's and under 16's 2010 Piranhas squad despite of still being an official under 14's player.

He has fantastic skills, and the elegance of the great Zinadine Zidane, accompanied by an amazing physical courage, and looks that make David Beckham look like Shrek.

The River Plate Football Director in Australia Mr. Daniel Santomil says: "Gav is the complete package". Hot Property!!

"In 25 years of coaching Juniors in Argentina and Australia, I had the pleasure to follow the developments of many Argentine superstars and Australian Internationals like Vince Grella from Keysborough and Scott Mc Donald from Doveton," Let me tell you, this boy is from Noble Park somewhere in between the two suburbs, and he has the best attribute of both of these players."

He knows football, has a powerful shot, is influential, intimidates players older than him, involves other players in his magic, controls the game and he has style!!

Older and younger players look up to him and he is so cool about it all. Gavin is definitely special...he said

Gavin trains everyday and a little bit more, and he is on a scholarship with the River Plate Football Academy Australia, and plays for The South Eastern Piranhas JFC a club which is also affiliated to the South American Giants, and he is also managed by The Rookie Australia player Management Services Pty Ltd. He has already some endorsements with ASICS, Life-Care sports Medicine clinics and TXU compression garments and he deserves every little bit of support he gets.

He comes from a very modest background and his mum suffered an incurable illness and recently passed away. He has been training full time (6 day a week) since he was 11's years old, just like any other player of his age in South America or Europe is enjoying every minute of it.

Gavin started at the age of 9 and he has been with the River Plate Academy since its modest beginnings.

He was expected to travel to CA River Plate of Argentina this year, but a last minute injury sustained by one of the older player due to trial last September, allowed Gavin to make the trip a year earlier, and thanks to the money held in the scholarship trust fund, he was given the opportunity to train at CA River Plate for two Months.

Great players have frozen when they wear the "sacred veil" as we call The River Plate Jersey in South America". His coach in Australia said.

"This was a very good test for him, but I proved to have what it takes". During his time at River Plate, Gavin

who has his mother's name printed on his boots, took part in an important practice game against Godoy Cruz of Mendoza, who travel more than 800 km to play and trial some of their players.

Gavin was selected to play in the squad for the midweek friendly game, and came on as substitute at the beginning of the second half.

The Team coach is Jorge Borelli, an ex-River Plate and Argentine striker and one of Gavin's six coaches at the club, politely asked the River Plate Australia representative if they could keep Gavin in Argentina a little bit longer...as Gavin took the last defender and placed it past the keeper to consolidate a 4-0 lead for the River Plate junior team...

The Director of Coaching of the CA River Plate Mr. Gabriel Rodriguez who is also long time friend with the ex-Australia National Coach Gus Hiddink, and has developed players like Hernan Crespo, Javier Saviola, Pablo Aimar and Javier Mascherano and “ El Pipita ” Iguain, got close to Gavin after the game, and said Pibe(young boy in Argentine Slang) Very Good!!!

Mr. Rodriguez was impressed with Gavin's display as a number 8 (right midfield), especially after Gavin followed his instructions to the tick.

Weeks before, he asked Gavin to think like a star and distribute the ball in all directions, sharp and fast, and told him Son, make it shine!!

Gavin said," here at River Plate, I have think my next move before the ball comes to me and my first touch has to be perfect otherwise I lose the ball. The

game here is so much faster” “ Everybody is composed on the ball and I always have options to pass” All Players and coaches are very friendly and they make me feel at home”.

After the game Mr. Rodriguez invited Gavin to sit as a (non participant) substitute on the weekend game, when his under 13's teammates play Boca Juniors in the Bombonera Stadium, in last round of the local junior league." I want Gavin, to soak the atmosphere of "El Clasico" which is a special event even in the junior calendar" Mr. Rodriguez said. It is a petty we can't play him; he is definitely in the first 16!!!

Gavin returned to Australia on the 18th November 2009, not because he wants to or River Plate are willing to return him, but mainly due to the FIFA rules regarding the Protection of Minors which, would not issue an international transfer clearance for the young Australian to play officially in Argentina even if he trains and plays with the official affiliated club and Academy in Australia.

In the meantime, and until FIFA relaxes a little bit the rules for players enrolled in Academies of international clubs worldwide, he will be looked after by the coaches at the Academy here in Australia and learning Spanish, not to miss out of any of action when he returns to the Argentine club this September 2010.

Gavin loves his country and hopes one day to play for Australia, his favorite Australian Player is “Vince Grella” because he is also a midfielder born and raised in Keysborough, played at Ross Reserve during his junior years which is

the same ground where the Piranhas FC currently plays.

Gavin's father, Kevin is many generations Australian and his mother was Irish.

*To see Gavin in Action, some of his goals, and interviews, you can now visit: [www.riverplateaustralia.com](http://www.riverplateaustralia.com) and enter into River Plate TV.*



Hot Shot: Gavin de Niese is making a splash with River Plate Academy



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# Italian Revolution at Bulleen Lions

By Aritro Abedin

**H**e has played and coached at the highest level of Italian football, and he's one of the most qualified coaches currently working in Australia. If this is the first time you've heard Alfredo Constantino's name then make a note of it, because there's a good chance it won't be the last.

It's a chilly Thursday night when I watch he and his assistants put the young Bulleen squad through their paces on the synthetic pitch at the Veneto club. The entire session seems to be a tour de force of exercises that I've never seen before and ideas I've never encountered. To start things off the players do a drill in which each player attempts to run at full speed whilst dragging along 15-20 kilograms worth of weight on a sled that drags on the ground behind them. Half-way through the sprint the players tear off the strapping around their waist and then burst through to the finish with the added flourish that comes from having instantaneously dropped 20 kilograms of weight.

'The idea is to build their core strength, agility and explosiveness without putting any strain on their joints,' explains Constantino. 'If you do this regularly you can develop a young player's explosiveness by 20% a year. So imagine the results after five years of training?'

The specially designed sleds that they're using for this exercise brought to Bulleen through Constantino's contacts in Italy. However, as his assistant and translator Nick Crivelli explains, it's something that has been in widespread use in Europe for generations.

'They've been doing this stuff in Europe for thirty or forty years. But we haven't even heard of it in Australia. That's how far behind we are in this country.'

'The beauty of the design is that it enables you can put a young player through this drill without damaging the cartilage in their joints or stunting their growth,' Constantino tells me. 'What it does is it targets your fast twitch muscle fibres, while also stimulating your brain in a way that is quite similar to the way it would be stimulated in a pressure situation in a match.'

This precise, minutely detailed method of developing a footballer's ability is part of a scientific approach to coaching that is typical at the elite level of in Europe. And it is one with which Constantino has become thoroughly familiar in a highly impressive lifetime in football.

His playing career included a six year stint in the Serie B with home-town club Catanzaro, during which he showed enough promise to be handed an Italian U/21 cap. After a back injury forced a premature retirement in the early 90s, he went on to complete a UEFA B Coaching badge and began a spell with the Italian Football Federation which put him at the coalface of new-age football coaching. He was enlisted by the Federation to be part of a team whose brief was to continue to improve and refine the Italian coaching methodology by innovating new methods which could then be subsequently taught to other Italian



Alfredo Constantino with Claudio Ranieri at Juventus in 2008



Translator/assistant Nick Crivelli, Matthew Leckie and Alfredo Constantino



Alfredo in campus with members of the AS Roma clinics

coaches. It was in this role that he absorbed the cutting edge techniques that he has brought with him to Australia. In fact, the assistant Nick Crivelli tells me that they've put the team through over a hundred different exercises during training this year.

**'Look, we all aspire to work at the highest level and Nick and I are no different. But I've got a 5 year contract to make Bulleen the best club in Victoria, and that's the what I'm focusing on**

'You've got to keep it interesting for the players,' explains Constantino. 'We try to make sure that every time they come to training, we give them a new set of things to do. We're still working on the same sorts of things, such as tech-

nique, balance, or agility, but we try and constantly give them different ways of working on them to keep things fresh.' 'What we've been doing since he came to the club is definitely different to what we've been used to,' says club captain Damien Guglielmi. 'But it's been fun, it's a really interesting and challenging way of training. And I've found that not only is it technically challenging, but it also challenges you mentally because of the tactical side of it.'

Constantino subscribes to a school of footballing thought which he shares with his good friend Claudio Ranieri, the present manager of AS Roma whom Constantino also served for a number of years as a youth coach. The two men met when their playing careers overlapped at Catanzaro, and their bond was solidified when Ranieri travelled to Melbourne with his Juventus side to play a friendly against the Victory.

'When Ranieri came to Melbourne, he actually stayed in the Mister's house,' says Crivelli, whose use of the title 'Mister' for the coach is a quaint nod to the Italian tradition. 'That just shows you the sort of respect he's held in.'

One would, of course, be tempted to query why someone of Constantino's pedigree might find himself coaching a club in Victoria's State League Division 1 when he could be coaching at a high level in Italy.

The answer is that it was during several visits to Melbourne running clinics on behalf of AS Roma that he decided that Australia's quality of life was worth leaving his homeland for.

'It's just a tough place to live over there,' explains Nick Crivelli. 'It's a bit violent in the streets and you can't go out late at night. There's always too many complications at every level. I think he was just sick of always having to beg someone whenever he needed something done.'

However, he found his complete lack of English to be a major hurdle to landing a coaching job at the higher levels of Australian football, and a search for a club turned up a number of frustrating leads that did not match his expectations. However, it was Delila Sabbadini, the president of the Veneto Club who recognized the transformative effect that someone of Constantino's pedigree could have on a club like Bulleen and signed

him up on a long-term deal in 2008.

'She deserves a lot of credit,' says Crivelli. 'she's given him a role to focus completely on development. The results are not important at this stage, it's all about building the club from the ground up. And she's given him a five-year contract which is unheard of at this level. It's a brave move. Eventually we want Bulleen to be the best club in Victoria'. The Italian-backed club was a perfect fit for Constantino, who found himself in his element with Crivelli at his side to translate his instructions into English for the rest of the staff and the players. And by the standards of Victorian state league football, the club's home base could just about pass for the Santiago Bernabeu. The huge Veneto club complex is a state of the art centre of sport with a plush video room, gymnasium, indoor facilities, tennis courts and an all-weather synthetic pitch that ensures a high-quality training base no matter what the weather. It may not quite be what Constantino was used to at Roma, but it's certainly nothing to sniff at.

'People wonder what someone like the Mister is doing at Bulleen.' Says Crivelli. 'Well look around you! This is a professional club we've got here.'

Constantino's influence on the club has been a completely top-down one, with all the age groups teams at Bulleen adopting the same world class training procedures that Constantino has instituted at senior level. And the club have certainly taken their mission as a developmental project very seriously by assembling a squad with no less than ten players under the age of 20 in their 18 man squad.

The youth of the side hasn't done its on field results any harm as it currently sits second place on 17 points after 9 games in a tight SL1 ladder while sides with far more experience languish below it. Matthew Leckie was the first big name to come through the system when he signed for Adelaide United last year, and there's no doubt there will be more to follow as the club's teenage stars find their feet.







However Constantino is cagey when it comes to discussing his A-League aspirations.

'Look, we all aspire to work at the highest level and Nick and I are no different. But I've got a 5 year contract to make Bulleen the best club in Victoria, and that's the what I'm focusing on now.'

With three years left on that five year contract, Constantino would appear to be making good progress on that mission. Promotion looks like a real possibility this season, and the large Veneto club crowds will bring some much needed life to a stagnating VPL competition if it happens. Whether they make it this year or not is not the issue, as anyone who follows this division knows it's only a matter of time before they get there.


However, no matter what happens, one thing remains certain: Alfredo Constantino will still be one of the most qualified coaches working in this country. And with his English vocabulary expanding with the number of jobs available in the A-League, don't be surprised if his name is one that carries a lot more resonance in a few years.

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# Forty minutes before kick off

**F**orty minutes before kick-off, we were scheduled to go out for a warm up. Walking down a stadium tunnel in my warm up gear was another first for me. Jaffa was dancing about with barely suppressed energy, throwing shadow punches at Dennis and dancing about like Ali.

"Jaffa!" barked Ronnie. "Don't fahkin' wear yerself out!"

Trevor was marching along next to me with his eyes fixed straight ahead as the light and sound came towards us, roaring like the ocean. And then, like the changing of a slide, we were outside, surrounded on all four sides by claustrophobic stands.

Glanford Park's capacity was just over 9000 but half an hour before play it looked double that. The noise in the middle was unbelievable. The southern stand was usually allocated to the away supporters, but we only had about 150 behind the goal at the southern end, and that number wasn't likely to rise. The rest of the ground was packed with Iron supporters and it wouldn't be long before they overflowed into the away stand.

The turf was okay. I'd expected better, but at least the ground was flat and not too boggy. I trotted about the southern end for a couple of minutes and then remembered I was supposed to be warming up Cockie.

The rest of the lads were over their initial stage fright and were being cajoled by Rags and Rossy Parker into a standard warm up. We usually started unstructured, just stretching and jogging about to get the blood flowing. Then we'd get into twos and start testing out each other's touch with balls hit firmly from ten metres. I found Cockie and started with the turn-away shots, which were now confirmed as his new warm up tradition.

Moments later there was a massive cheer all round the ground as Scunthorpe United ran out for their session at the northern end. They were all in really nice track suits – the sort that look like they're too cool to ever get sold to the general public – and I couldn't help but feel that they looked like a team on television, whereas we looked like a pub team. A good quality pub team, but

still a pub team. And when you thought about it, that's exactly what we were.

As the Scunthorpe lads fired into their warm up routine the crowd began to sing, and the hair absolutely rose on the back of your neck to hear it – magnificent – until they started singing about us. What is it about English fans and "Teddy Bears Picnic"?

*When Bentham come to Glanford Park  
They won't believe their eyes  
When Bentham come to Glanford Park  
They're in for a big surprise  
Cause amateurs are crappy and shite  
We'll win the game and then win the fight  
Today's the day the Iron have a picnic*

Some of us had a bit of a laugh at that but Trevor was filthy, finally looking and sounding like the Trevor of old: "This fahkin' crowd fink they smell blood, mate," he said to Rags, trying to get him fired up, but Rags didn't need firing up. He reminded me of Mel Gibson before the Battle of Stirling Bridge – wouldn't want to get in the way of one of his fearsome last ditch tackles tonight. And for someone who'd had three total knee reconstructions, he had absolutely no fear of a fourth.

Back inside, I realised I'd never before been part of the full first team preparation. I was usually still out on the pitch for reserves or in the shower as the first team received their marching orders. Everyone was quiet. Ron was going about giving individual instructions and then he addressed the room: "Right, lads: we're startin' four, four, two as usual, but dependin' on 'ow fings go, we might make a change later on," he said, with a glance at Rags. It immediately occurred to me that Rags' best mate Sam, who played in the centre of midfield with Juan Pablo, was the probable casualty if we made the changes I'd suggested. Ronnie had obviously discussed my idea with Rags, and I had the feeling that Rags was against it.

"Now, we all know this is a big occasion but don' forget it's a big occasion fer Scunthorpe an' all! They're on a hidin' ter fahkin' nuffin playin' non-league, so that's our ace in the hole, lads: fear. These blokes are scared fahkin' shitless of losin' ter non-league shite, so we've got ter play on that

fear. Win the one-on-one battles! Get ter the ball first! Make the short sprint into space an' be available. Close 'em fahkin' down immediately when they get the ball. We can't afford ter let these blokes 'ave time on the ball or they'll fahkin' kill us. So win the one-on-ones, make that fear level rise, an' when they start ter fahkin' panic the game 'll take care of itself!

A steward stuck his head in the door and spoke to Rossy Parker.

"Two minutes," shouted Rossy.

The noise level outside went up a couple of notches with the door open, but Ron slammed it shut again.

"We're just a free pass inter the fourth round for this fahkin' crowd," said Ronnie. "Even better: we're an excuse fer a fahkin' party. Well the fahkin' players don' fink that. We may be non-league, but they know we've been through the fire jus' ter fahkin' make the third round. The louder that fahkin' crowd gets, the more they'll play on Scunthorpe's nerves, 'cause we got fahkin' news, Scunthorpe: this aint a party, it's a fahkin' wake!"

There was a great shout from the Bentham lads, who seemed to know instinctively that Ronnie's speech was over.

"Right, lads," said Rags. The door was opened once again and the sound was like a physical force pressing us back into the room.

But out we went, Eric Judd among them (as per program as number 42), into the dark drizzly glare – 9000 sounding like 90,000. As expected, the southern stand had been opened up to accommodate the home fans, with only half a dozen yellow-jacketed security staff standing between them and our stern gross.

I sat at the end of the bench, next to Trevor, and we shared a moment's peace in the tumult.

"Thanks, mate," said Trev, looking suspiciously misty for such a hard case.

"No worries, 12-Step," I replied, and he just grinned, threw his arm round my head and kissed my forehead.

Then the whistle blasted, or so I presume. We certainly couldn't hear it. Game on.



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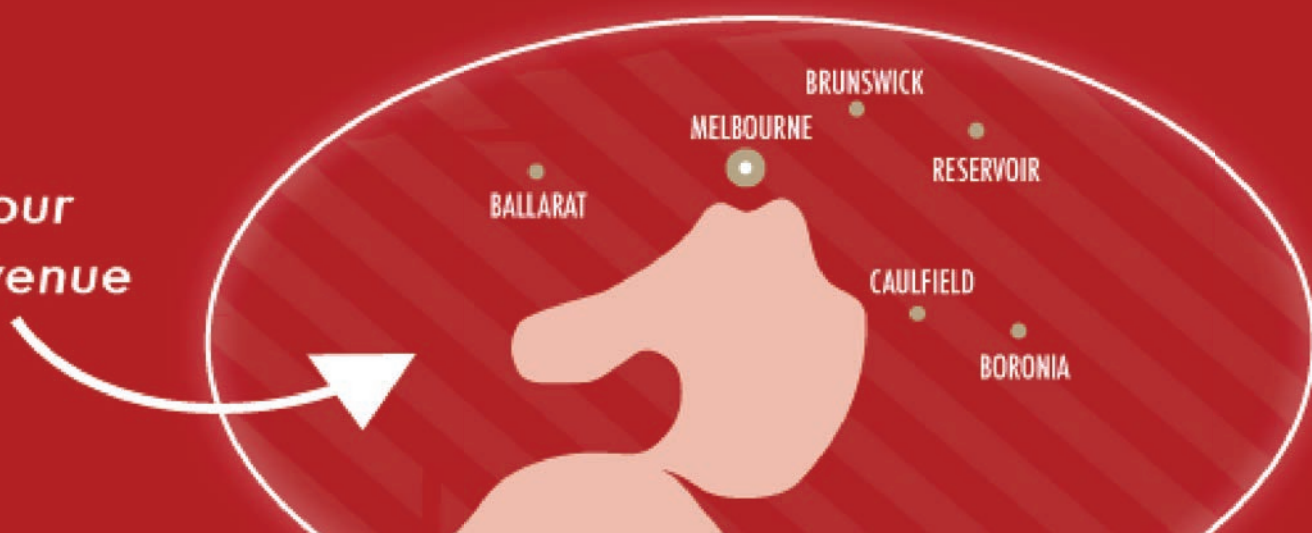
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# Bergers rocket to the top

By Emma Fields

**Heidelberg United has rocketed to the top of the Womens Premier League (WPL) following a convincing 5-0 win over the Bendigo Vipers, in one of two catch up games played on the weekend.**

South Melbourne, which only got their first win of the year last week, dragged them selves out of last position in the WPL with a 3-2 victory over Casey Comets in the only other WPL game.

Former Socceroo and South Melbourne legend Alan Davidson is now coach of the SMFC women's team and they've regained some of last years players plus Annabelle Gibney from Ashburton and Penny Bakopoulos from Heidelberg, so they're a competitive team again.

Heidelberg notched up three wins in a row to becomes third team to occupy the number one position in the top womens league in the past month.

The Bergers started slowly in the first half managing their first goal from the boot of striker Melanie Camileri in the 21st minute.

Camilleri's tenth goal for 2010 keeps her as the leading goal scorer in the WPL and at the mid stage of the season is an early favourite to reclaim her Golden Boot crown from 2009.

Heidelberg mounted a sustained attack late in the half which saw four shots on goal in the last five minutes but couldn't convert and went to the break with a one goal advantage.

The second half was all one-way traffic and Heidelberg doubled their lead three minutes in when Melbourne Victory midfielder Sarah Groenewald broke through the Bendigo defensive line and found the net.

Groenewald relished the move to striker in the second half and was instrumental in a number of Heidelberg chances.

In the 70th minute she shrugged off her player deep in the Bergers attacking zone and found un un-marked Michelle Verzi at the top of the box. Verzi nailed it into the top right hand corner and the Bergers to a 3-0 lead.

Heidelberg's were far from their best but the Vipers offered little resistance and rarely managed to move into their offensive zone.

The Vipers defence, which held off the Heidelberg attack well in the first half, began to crumble last in the game and Verzi claimed her second goal 13 minutes later with a long range bomb from outside the box.

Heidelberg substitute, Janelle Hopman, with the last kick of day, clinched the home teams final goal following a lovely passage of play by Jamara Maza and Belinda Pannella.

Heidelberg's victory was a double celebration for Jamara Maza playing her 200th game and becoming only the second female Berger to achieve this milestone.

"Five-nil, top of the table, it's a great result and it's a good way to celebrate Jamara's 200th game," Heidelberg coach John Lioupas said after the match.

"Bendigo's always difficult to play against and I think today, we were undermanned, we had a few players out, and we just had to make sure we stayed focussed and got the result.

I would have been happy with a one-nil result...three points is what its all about," Lioupas said.

South Melbourne took the three points in the other WPL game with a high scoring 3-2 win over Casey Comets at Comets, backing up last weeks break-through win to move off the bottom of the table. After a scoreless first half both teams found form and piled on five goals between them in the last half.

Lutrece Laverdure fired off a hatrick for South Melbourne to seal the win while Laura Croft and Rebecca Sherry scored for the Comets.

Despite the loss Casey remains at fifth spot in the league while South Melbourne have been elevated to seventh, just one point ahead of Altona and Preston, languishing at the bottom.

At the half way point of season 2010 the WPL is showing signs it will be another tight race for that elusive finals berth for the top four womens teams.

Heidelberg are leading the pack on 18 points but Box Hill and Sandringham, which is the most improved team this year, are in second and third respectively on 17 points and Ashburton round out the top four.



Melissa Atherton is laughing after Casey Comets' first goal, but it was South Melbourne who had the last laugh on Sunday afternoon  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Vanessa Hellar (Comets) gets in first but fails to collect the ball against Lara Spiranovic (Sth Melb).  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

## WPL RESULTS

**Casey Comets 2**  
(L Croft R Sherry)  
**South Melbourne Womens 3**  
(L Laverdure)

**Heidelberg Utd 5**  
(M Camilleri S Groenewald J Hopman M Verzi 2)  
**Bendigo Vipers 0**

Reserves:  
Casey Comets 0  
South Melbourne 2

Heidelberg Utd 3  
BASL 0

## WPL NEXT ROUND

**Box Hill Inter v South Melbourne**  
Wembley Park  
Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM

**Bendigo Vipers v Sandringham**  
Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve  
Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM

**Altona City v Heidelberg Utd**  
HC Kim Reserve  
Sun 20 Jun KO 1:00PM

**Preston Lions v Casey Comets**  
BT Connor Reserve  
Sun 20 Jun KO 1:00PM

**Bye v Ashburton**

## WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg Utd	8	6	0	2	23	9	18
Box Hill Inter	8	5	2	1	18	5	17
Sandringham	8	5	2	1	13	7	17
Ashburton	8	5	0	3	22	13	15
Casey Comets	8	4	0	4	13	13	12
Bendigo Vipers	8	2	2	4	6	14	8
South Melbourne	8	2	0	6	7	17	6
Altona City	8	1	2	5	4	15	5
Preston Lions	8	1	2	5	8	21	5

## WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashburton	8	6	2	0	29	6	20
Heidelberg Utd	8	5	2	1	18	6	17
Sandringham	8	5	1	2	14	11	16
Casey Comets	8	4	1	3	11	9	13
South Melbourne	8	3	2	3	13	10	11
Box Hill Inter	8	3	1	4	15	12	10
BASL	8	3	1	4	11	22	10
Altona City	8	1	1	6	10	22	4
Preston Lions	8	0	1	7	4	27	1

**For more WPL news visit Emma's blog <http://fromthebackline.blogspot.com>**

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# Warriors in master class mood

By Roy Hay

It was the only game in town and North Geelong's veterans Adrian Cervinski and Mijo Trupkovic put on a master class in midfield to help defeat Malvern City by three goals to nil at Elcho Park in Division One of the State League on Saturday.

Around them the North youngsters buzzed for 90 minutes, playing good constructive football all the way to the edge of the visiting goal area.

In the first half numerous chances were created but none taken, and even the coach, Vinko Buljubasic, began to wonder whether North would get the vital first goal.

It finally came in the 59th minute when livewire winger Robert Zadworny crossed and Daniel Dragicevic scored at the second attempt, after the first had been blocked by Malvern's excellent keeper, Michael Sivulga.

Zadworny hit the post after another good run, but Malvern's Paul Maddondo shot just over as the visitors threatened to undo all North's good work to date.

Player-coach Pat Liapis worked his socks off in midfield to try to get the Malvern players to turn their good approach play into goals without success.

Seventy-seven minutes had come and gone when North's Matthew Demo cut the ball back across goal, Dragicevic flicked it on and Milan Batur had a simple tap in at the far post.

But the defender had covered lots of ground to be in the position to take the chance.

This was another feature of North's play as defenders and midfielders backed themselves to take on opponents and open the game up.



Another veteran, Ante Deak, came off the bench with eight minutes left to play an immediately put on a cameo performance of his own, slaloming through the Malvern defence and finishing with a shot which went narrowly wide.

Tom Dunn in the North goal kept another clean sheet, and came off his line several times, at risk of injury to himself, to clear his lines.

John Patti, Reardo Luca, Adam

Zilic and Zelimir Franjic all showed touches of the potential which they undoubtedly have and North cruised home.

There was just time for Cervinski to slide home a third goal in the 89th minute after referee Perry Mur gave him the benefit of a great advantage after a foul by the Malvern defence. His team-mates showed in their celebrations just how much they appreciate what the former national league

star means to the North team today. An interested spectator was George Karkaletsis, who was a member of North Geelong Premier League champion side in 1992.

Now coaching Pascoe Vale he was there to run the rule over Malvern whom the Vale play next week.

Before the match there was a minute's silence in memory of one of the pillars of the club, Frank Hegyesi, who died this week.

One of the generation of post-war migrants who made the game in Geelong, Frank played with International Harvester in the 1950s, and those who struggled with the pronunciation of his name called him Frank 'Harvester'.

A gentle man and a great supporter of North Geelong financially and in every other way he will be greatly missed by a wide circle of friends.

## SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Springvale White Eagles	9	6	2	1	20	10	20
FC Bulleen Lions	9	5	2	2	18	6	17
North Geelong Warriors	9	4	4	1	15	6	16
Langwarrin	9	5	1	3	21	17	16
Whittlesea Zebras	9	5	1	3	15	13	16
Western Suburbs	9	4	3	2	16	11	15
Fawkner Blues	9	4	3	2	12	11	15
Pascoe Vale	9	3	1	5	9	14	10
St Albans Saints	9	2	6	1	18	16	9
Malvern City	9	3	0	6	9	20	9
FC Clifton Hill	9	1	0	8	8	19	3
Preston Lions	9	0	1	8	4	22	1

## SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Geelong Warriors	9	7	2	0	22	4	23
FC Bulleen Lions	9	6	2	1	22	8	20
Langwarrin	9	6	1	2	17	10	19
Springvale White Eagles	9	5	1	3	15	11	16
Western Suburbs	8	4	1	3	16	18	13
Whittlesea Zebras	8	3	3	2	12	10	12
St Albans Saints	9	4	1	4	17	14	10
Pascoe Vale	9	3	0	6	17	19	9
Malvern City	9	2	2	5	14	22	8
Preston Lions	9	2	1	6	16	19	7
Fawkner Blues	9	1	2	6	4	20	5
FC Clifton Hill	9	1	2	6	8	25	5

Reardo Luka (left) of North Geelong and Cam Williamson of Malvern City contest a loose ball in their State League Division One catch-up game on Saturday at Elcho Park.

Photo: Courtesy of the Geelong Advertiser.

## SL1 RESULTS

**Catch-up:**  
**North Geelong Warriors 3 (A Cervinski M Batur D Dragicevic)**  
**Malvern City 0**

**Under 21s:**  
**North Geelong Warriors 2**  
**Malvern City 0**

## SL1 NEXT ROUND

**Round 10**  
**FC Clifton Hill v Preston Lions**  
*Kevin Bartlett Reserve*  
*Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM*

**Langwarrin v North Geelong Warriors**  
*Lawton Park Reserve*  
*Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM*

**Pascoe Vale v Malvern City**  
*Hosken Reserve*  
*Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM*

**Fawkner Blues v Western Suburbs**  
*CB Smith Reserve*  
*Sun 20 Jun KO 3:00PM*

**St Albans Saints v FC Bulleen Lions**  
*Churchill Reserve*  
*Sun 20 Jun KO 3:00PM*

**Springvale White Eagles v Whittlesea Zebras**  
*White Eagles Stadium*  
*Sun 21 Jun KO 8:30PM*



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## Seniors STATE SOUTH EAST 2 Reserves

Casey Comets 1 (J McEvoy) Morwell Pegasus 2 (F Albanopoulos, Eastern Lions 1 (O Harel) Knox City 3 (N Giannopoulos M Evans T Ajao), Berwick City 1 (J Fernand) Doncaster Rovers 3 (V Pirozzi J Adeosun 2), Dandenong City 6 (D Matkovic 2 T Grskovic I Klarica A Milicic) Frankston Pines 3 (M Morris-Thomas 2), Southern Stars 3 (AM Rudzki B Sakai AF Mulcahy) Diamond Valley Utd 2 (A Savage Own Goal), Heatherton Utd 3 (M Skenderovic A Sanad) Southern Suburbs 1 (C Mellios).																Casey Comets 2 Morwell Pegasus 2, Eastern Lions 1 Knox City 2, Berwick City 0 Doncaster Rovers 6, Dandenong City 3 Frankston Pines 0, Southern Stars 2 Diamond Valley Utd 5, Heatherton Utd 1 Southern Suburbs 3															
<b>Catch-up:</b> Berwick City 3 (M Tidd OA Mejias 2) Southern Suburbs 0																<b>Catch-up:</b> Berwick City 1 Southern Suburbs 0															
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P		P	W	D	L	F	A	P																
Southern Stars	9	8	1	0	23	10	25	Knox City	9	8	0	1	30	10	24																
Morwell Pegasus	9	7	0	2	24	13	21	Diamond Valley Utd	9	6	1	2	27	13	21																
Diamond Valley Utd	9	6	1	2	21	16	19	Southern Stars	9	6	0	3	30	16	18																
Knox City	9	4	3	2	15	12	15	Berwick City	9	6	0	3	15	18	15																
Dandenong City	9	4	2	3	17	12	14	Dandenong City	9	5	0	4	17	17	15																
Casey Comets	9	4	2	3	15	14	14	Casey Comets	9	4	2	3	14	11	14																
Heatherton Utd	9	3	4	2	11	9	13	Eastern Lions	9	4	1	4	15	14	13																
Doncaster Rovers	9	3	1	5	12	15	10	Heatherton Utd	9	3	1	5	10	15	10																
Eastern Lions	9	2	2	5	14	18	8	Frankston Pines	9	2	1	6	11	20	7																
Frankston Pines	9	2	1	6	10	19	7	Southern Suburbs	9	2	1	6	12	22	7																
Berwick City	9	1	2	6	8	16	5	Morwell Pegasus	9	2	1	6	20	40	7																
Southern Suburbs	9	0	1	8	9	25	1	Doncaster Rovers	9	2	0	7	16	21	1																

## Seniors STATE SOUTH EAST 3 Reserves

Fitzroy City 1 (D Wilson) Nunawading City FC 1 (J Cirianni), Peninsula Strikers 2 (G Lawrence) 2 Brandon Park 1, South Springvale 2 (S Catherine GW Pearce) Croydon City Arrows 2 (M Zoppo R Benedes), Mornington 3 (N Waite AJ Skledar 2) Springvale City 1 (E Klancevic), North Caulfield 2 (J Tasker) Waverley Wanderers 0

Fitzroy City 3 Nunawading City FC 0, Peninsula Strikers 5 Brandon Park 0, South Springvale 3 Croydon City Arrows 3, Mornington 7 Springvale City 1, North Caulfield 3 Waverley Wanderers 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Springvale	9	7	1	1	26	7	22	Fitzroy City	9	5	3	1	25	11	18
Noble Park Utd	9	7	1	1	23	9	22	Noble Park Utd	9	5	3	1	29	22	18
Mornington	9	6	0	3	22	12	18	Nunawading City FC	9	5	2	2	24	19	17
Kingston City	9	5	1	3	15	13	16	Peninsula Strikers	9	4	4	1	23	12	16
Peninsula Strikers	9	5	1	3	11	12	16	South Springvale	9	4	4	1	19	10	16
Croydon City Arrows	9	3	2	4	14	14	11	Croydon City Arrows	9	3	5	1	21	15	14
Fitzroy City	9	3	2	4	17	20	11	Kingston City	9	3	4	2	28	18	13
Nunawading City FC	9	3	1	5	6	14	10	Mornington	9	3	4	2	24	18	13
North Caulfield	9	3	0	6	18	24	9	North Caulfield	9	2	1	6	19	26	7
Waverley Wanderers	9	2	3	4	6	12	9	Springvale City	9	2	1	6	14	34	7
Brandon Park	9	1	2	6	13	21	5	Brandon Park	9	1	2	6	10	29	5
Springvale City	9	1	2	6	11	24	5	Waverley Wanderers	9	0	1	8	9	31	4

## Seniors      PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST      Reserves

Boroondara Eagles 0 Old Scotch 0, Dandenong Sparrows 1 (T Ithier) Sandringham City 2 (J Gaynor MJ Putson), Monash University 5 (A Salmon LP Johnson 2 R Nation G Moka) Beaumaris 0, Monbulk 0 Warragul Utd 2 (MK Lewry AW Ahmadza), Old Camberwell Grammar 0 Doveton 0, Old Melbourne 3 (M Pember J Howe H Matika) Mooroolbark 2 (B Adams AJ Cowie)						
<b>Catch-up:</b> Boroondara Eagles 0 Monash University 2 (M Solovoyev G Moka)						
	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>A P T</b>
Old Scotch	9	5	3	1	16	5 18
Monash University	9	5	2	2	23	13 17
Dandenong Sparrows	9	5	1	3	24	15 16
Warragul Utd	9	3	4	2	24	13 13
Old Camberwell Grammar	9	4	1	4	14	22 13
Mooroolbark	9	3	3	3	19	16 12
Old Melbourne	9	3	3	3	17	16 12
Sandringham City	9	3	3	3	15	16 12
Doveton	9	3	3	3	9	13 12
Monbulk	9	2	3	4	14	18 9
Beaumaris	9	2	2	5	7	23 8
Boroondara Eagles	9	1	2	6	9	21 5

## Seniors      PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST      Reserves

Ashburton 1 (AM Ciavarella) Riversdale 1 (J Tracey), Skye Utd 2 (M Cordoma F Dimu) Whitehorse Utd 2 (C Bacalis 2), Caulfield Cobras 1 (P Alissaphos) Uni. of Mel- bourne 1 (B Mitchell), Lyndale Utd 2 (R Heco 2) Berwick Kings 1 (D Blanus), Old Carey 1 (A Mariadason) Bay- side Argonauts 2 (b nalpantisid R Searle), Old Brighton Grammarians 3 (J Foschini 2 Own Goal) Endeavour Utd 4 (A Jandu GM Dos Santos 3)							Ashburton 0 Riversdale 3, Skye Utd 2 Whitehorse Utd 2, Caulfield Utd 0 Uni. of Melbourne 3, Lyndale Utd 3 Berwick Kings 5, Old Brighton Grammarians 3 Endeav- our Utd 5						
	<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>PT</b>		<b>P</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>PT</b>
Ashburton	9	7	2	0	23	3 23	Riversdale	9	7	2	0	25	11 23
Skye Utd	9	5	1	3	20	18 16	Uni. of Melbourne	9	6	0	3	25	13 18
Endeavour Utd	9	4	3	2	15	10 15	Caulfield Utd	9	5	2	2	24	18 15
Lyndale Utd	9	5	0	4	13	18 15	Ashburton	9	5	0	4	21	15 13
Riversdale	9	4	2	3	18	17 14	Berwick Kings	9	4	1	4	23	19 13
Bayside Argonauts	9	3	3	3	9	10 12	Old Carey	8	4	1	3	16	16 13
Whitehorse Utd	9	2	5	2	15	16 11	Lyndale Utd	9	4	0	5	28	26 12
Uni. of Melbourne	9	3	2	4	10	11 11	Endeavour Utd	9	3	1	5	15	18 10
Old Brighton Grammarians	9	3	1	5	16	20 10	Whitehorse Utd	9	3	1	5	15	20 10
Berwick Kings	9	2	2	5	11	16 8	Bayside Argonauts	8	3	1	4	6	17 10
Old Carey	9	2	1	6	6	11 7	Old Brighton Grammarians	9	1	3	5	17	32
Caulfield Cobras	9	1	4	4	13	19 7	Skye Utd	9	1	2	6	16	26

## Seniors      PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST      Reserves

East Bentleigh 0 Brighton 1 (N McGinnity), Manningham 0 Keysborough 3 (M Roberts D Verdichizzi GS Gallardo), Essendon Royals 1 (J Micallef) Noble Park 3 (G Banabakis F Gorsevski 2), Old Trinity Grammarians 2 Seaford Utd 5 (M Curd 2 K Stratton H Campos Own Goal), Rowville Eagles 2 (D Pop Own Goal) White Star Dandenong 0, Eltham Redbacks 3 (D Oehme BW Mulcahy 2) Glen Waverley 1										East Bentleigh 2 Brighton 4, Manningham 2 Keysborough 0, Essendon Royals 5 Noble Park 2, Old Trinity Grammarians 2 Seaford Utd 1 (N Taylor), Rowville Eagles 2 (A Mitrea D Puscasu) White Star Dandenong 2, Eltham Redbacks 2 Glen Waverley 1									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T			P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T	
Brighton	9	6	1	2	19	7	19			Old Trinity Grammarians	9	7	1	1	29	7	22		
Eltham Redbacks	9	6	0	3	20	11	18			Seaford Utd	9	6	1	2	24	14	19		
Rowville Eagles	9	6	2	1	20	11	17			Brighton	9	6	1	2	20	12	19		
Keysborough	9	5	2	2	19	11	17			Manningham	9	4	2	3	19	18	14		
Seaford Utd	9	4	1	4	17	16	13			Rowville Eagles	9	4	4	1	22	15	13		
Old Trinity Grammarians	9	4	1	4	15	17	13			Glen Waverley	9	4	0	5	22	18	12		
White Star Dandenong	9	3	2	4	13	14	11			Keysborough	9	3	3	3	15	16	12		
Noble Park	9	3	1	5	11	17	10			Eltham Redbacks	9	4	0	5	11	16	12		
Essendon Royals	9	3	1	5	14	23	10			White Star Dandenong	9	3	2	4	12	13	11		
East Bentleigh	9	2	3	4	10	14	9			Noble Park	9	2	1	6	17	26	7		
Glen Waverley	9	1	4	4	11	16	7			East Bentleigh	9	2	0	7	9	19	6		
Manningham	9	1	2	6	15	27	5			Essendon Royals	9	1	1	7	11	37			

Tuesday 15th June 2010

**State NW 2**  
**Whittlesea Ranges v Werribee City**  
 Epping Soccer Stadium Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM  
**Port Melbourne v Banyule City**  
 SS Anderson Reserve Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM  
**Ballarat Red Devils v Geelong Rangers**  
 Trekardo Park  
**Brunswick City v Altona City**  
 Dunstan Reserve  
**Sydenham Park v Moreland City**  
 Keilor Lodge Reserve  
**Williamstown v Altona East Phoenix**  
 JT Gray Reserve

**State SE 2**  
**Doncaster Rovers v Casey Comets**  
 Anderson Park Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM  
**Frankston Pines v Southern Stars**  
 Monterey Reserve  
**Diamond Valley Utd v Berwick City**  
 Partington Flats  
**Heatherton Utd v Morwell Pegasus**  
 Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre  
**Knox City v Dandenong City**  
 Egan Lee Reserve  
**Southern Suburbs v Eastern Lions**  
 Keeley Park

**State NW 3**  
**Geelong v Hume Utd**  
 Stead Park Reserve Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM  
**Cairnlea v Lalor**  
 Cairnlea Park  
**Keilor Park v Westgate**  
 Keilor Park Reserve  
**La Trobe University v Maribyrnong Greens**  
 Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Field  
**Sunbury Utd v Essendon Utd**  
 Langama Park  
**Yarraville Glory v Melbourne University Rangers**  
 Mclvor Reserve

**State SE 3**  
**Croydon City Arrows v Fitzroy City**  
 Dorset Recreational Res Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM  
**Nunawading City FC v Mornington**  
 Mahoneys Road Reserve  
**South Springvale v Noble Park Utd**  
 Warner Reserve  
**Waverley Wanderers v Kingston City**  
 Carlson Ave Reserve  
**Springvale City v Peninsula Strikers**  
 Ross Reserve  
**Brandon Park v North Caulfield**  
 Freeway Reserve Sun 20 Jun KO 3:00PM

**Provi NW 1**  
**FC Strathmore v Elwood City**  
 Strathnaver Reserve  
**Laverton Park SC v Avondale Heights**  
 Laverton Park Reserve  
**North Sunshine Eagles v Whittlesea Utd**  
 Larissa Reserve  
**Northern Falcons v North City Lions**  
 Hayes Park  
**South Yarra v Corio**  
 Fawkner Park (North Pavilion)  
**Westvale v Melbourne City**  
 McKechnie Reserve

**Provi SE 1**  
**Warragul Utd v Monash University**  
 Baxter Park (Warragul)  
**Beaumaris v Boroondara Eagles**  
 Beaumaris Reserve  
**Monbulk v Doveton**  
 Monbulk Recreational Reserve  
**Mooroolbark v Dandenong Sparrows**  
 Esther Park Reserve  
**Sandringham City v Old Camberwell Grammar**  
 R.J. Sillitoe Reserve  
**Old Scotch v Old Melburnians**  
 Scotch College

**Provi NW 2**  
**Bell Park v Collingwood City**  
 Bell Park Sports Club  
**Epping City v Western Eagles**  
 Duffy Street Reserve  
**Lalor Utd v Melton**  
 HR Uren Reserve  
**Melbourne Tornado v West Preston**  
 Newmarket Reserve  
**Moreland Utd v Hoppers Crossing**  
 Moomba Park Reserve  
**Surf Coast v Plenty Valley Lions**  
 Quay Reserve

**Provi SE 2**  
**Berwick Kings v Ashburton**  
 Betula Park  
**Endeavour Utd v Caulfield Cobras**  
 Reema Reserve  
**Whitehorse Utd v Old Brighton Grammarians**  
 Terrara Park  
**Old Carey v Riversdale**  
 Carey Sports Complex  
**Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC v Lyndale Utd**  
 Princes Park (Parkville)  
**Bayside Argonauts v Skye Utd**  
 Shipston Reserve

**Provi NW 3**  
**Balmoral v Watsonia Heights**  
 Arthur Beachley Reserve  
**Meadow Park Eagles v Brimbank Stallions**  
 Gladstone Park Reserve  
**Youth Utd v Mill Park**  
 Seth Raistrick Reserve  
**Bundoora Utd v Darebin Utd**  
 Hills Recreational Reserve  
**Keilor Wolves v Brunswick Zebras**  
 Green Gully Reserve  
**Upfield v Northern Roosters**  
 Gibb Reserve

**Provi SE 3**  
**Keysborough v Eltham Redbacks**  
 Coomoora Reserve  
**Noble Park v East Bentleigh**  
 Norman Luth Reserve  
**Old Trinity Grammarians v Glen Waverley**  
 FC Trinity Sports Ground  
**Seaford Utd v Rowville Eagles**  
 North Seaford Reserve  
**White Star Dandenong v Essendon Royals**  
 Greaves Reserve  
**Brighton v Manningham**  
 Dendy Park







# V-LEAGUE

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Round 7



# The Fitzroy curse sees North on top

By Adam Hussein

## Albert Park FC 4-8 Ashburton FC

Round seven of the LEGEA Men's V-League premiership kicked off with a bang as the royal blue of Albert Park tussled with the green machine Ashburton. Both sides started brightly and had numerous chances. Ex-Albert Park player Ahmed Azzam was in fine form scoring 5 goals in a brilliant solo performance that highlighted just how dependant Ashburton are on their front men. Albert Park on the other hand had four individual goalscorers which epitomizes there orthodox short passing style that could find any team member on the end of a neat passing move. Ashburton coach Paul Vidic was stoked with the Victory as Ashburton climb into higher territory on the V-League ladder. Albert Park manager Zoran Matic would've been happy with his contender for goal of the season, but until Albert Park register some points on the board it's a steep decline to the bottom of the V-League ladder.

## Fitzroy FC 5-8 Pascoe Vale FC

The Fitzroy flying foxes were swept away by an undermanned Pascoe Vale in emphatic style as the champions showed all 11 teams in the V-League why they are the champions. Fitzroy had two new inclusions, young goalkeeper George Klonis & ex FC Melbourne player Stefan Litanakis. Pascoe Vale had Claudio Palmieri in place of the suspended Gregory Lascaris, he made numerous point blank saves to keep Pascoe Vale alive in the opening few minutes, and this spurred on Spijodic, Simsek & Barbosa to a 4-0 rout at half time. Fitzroy came out fighting in the second half but had no answers; they soon found themselves 7-0 down. It was harsh on the youthful side as they had done so well in previous weeks. Leigh Minopolous & Anthony Hammer fought back with 5 consolation goals to earn some respect for Fitzroy, Pascoe Vale seal 3 vital points in there second title quest. Marcus Barbosa Junior will be one to watch next week after the best individual performance of the night. Questions remain can this youthful Fitzroy side break the dreaded Fitzroy curse?

## Mickleham FC 3-1 FC Carlton

The yellow & black of Mickleham punished a depleted Carlton side in a match where poor finishing almost cost Mickleham. Both sides are languishing in the bottom half of the table and both were missing key players for this vital clash. Mickleham lacked the energy of Damir Marusic; Carlton lacked the firepower of



FC Prahran's Magnificent Magical Maxie Avram's slip up costs him one week



V-LEAGUE superstars Sahim (Hume FC) & Muktar (FC Prahran) battle it out in round 7

Savva Pattikis. Mickleham dominated early with several terrific passing moves & chances. Ryan Filipovic (MFC) was in good goal scoring form scoring another double & he was the difference between the two sides. Serar Isa scored the only goal for Carlton in this close battle. Daya Ahmed, Con Stavrakas and Majid Alipor all battled heartedly for Carlton but they will require a lot more skills and finesse to escape last position & immediate relegation.

## North Melb FC 5-3 Brimbank FC

Futsal Juggernaut North Melbourne had a struggle on their hands to beat newcomers Brimbank in this close match. Brimbank drew first blood and shocked the Victoria street crowd as the game was locked at 1-0 for 16 minutes. North turned the screw late in the first half, a well taken equaliser by Barrientos & a thunderbolt by Fernando De Moraes right into the top corner to snatch the lead. It was a sea-saw battle in the second half, with North missing several chances and Brimbank hanging on by the skin of their teeth. Carlos Munoz the



Faboulos Fernando De Moraes secures 3 points for North



Simon Colossimo ensures all 3 points go to Mickleham

Brimbank goalkeeper saved a barrage of shots early as Maestro Vadim Mazurksy scored to reduce the deficit. North scored again through De Moraes who has hit a rich vein of scoring form. Jason Barrientos & Adam Cooper were both energetic for North but just couldn't finish off neat passing moves, Admir Kablar posed North Melbourne several problems and he scored an important goal late on for Brimbank as they pushed home for an equalizer. Kablar was really unlucky to score a common own goal, a defensive header looping his own keeper that sealed the 5-3 deal and lift North to the top of the table.

## Metropolitan FC 9-7 FC Essendon

Heavyweights Metropolitan took on 09 Champions FC Essendon in this gargantuan battle of epic proportions. Metropolitan raced away to a 4-0 lead and looked to run riot against the old timers in the red. They fought back slowly but surely to peg back Metro and it was 5-3 at half time. Alija Redzepovic & Ivan Zilic did the damage for Metro, scoring six goals between them. Dino Redzepovic wasn't on the scoresheet which was a rare occurrence but he did well to stem numerous FC Essendon attacks. Essendon talisman Alexander 'The Great' Stevanovic scored four fantastic goals, with terrific

new signing Ignjat 'The Engine' Filipovic scoring three for Essendon. Both sides played an all out attacking style with the match end to end. Essendon's fight back was brave and hearty but lacked the conviction to steal the lead, Metro switched from 2-2 to 3-1 with Zilic spearheading several raids that pulled apart Essendon's defensive set up of Tomic, I. Stevanovic & Erakovic.

## Hume FC 6-3 FC Prahran

The last match of the night saw State League Champions challenge giant killers FC Prahran in a close game. The crowd warmed to this match as the temperature outside plummeted. Hume was first out of the blocks and scored the opener, a lot of players tipped Hume for this match given Prahran underestimate teams in the lower half. Hume's new signing Michael Dixon backed up last week's performance with a double, a scintillating free kick that flew into the top corner and an angled back post finish. Amin Keddad has managed the side to perfection and he came on in the second half and scored a real captains goal. Maxim Avram tried to the point of exhaustion, but was sent off for two bookable offences. It hurt Prahran because up until that point they were still in the contest. Ahmed Muktar has really turned it on for Prahran and some vital goals kept them in the contest but Prahran are in real trouble now. They required 2-3 players for next weeks clash and could find themselves slipping and sliding down the ladder.

PHOTOS BY  
Franco Lucchetti, Nick Chip-pas, Theo Mechanikos

## LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	7	5	1	1	44	25	19	16
2 Fitzroy FC	7	5	1	1	35	25	14	16
3 Metropolitan FC	7	4	2	1	57	40	17	14
4 Pascoe Vale FC	7	4	1	2	39	27	12	13
5 Ashburton FC	7	4	0	3	37	32	5	12
6 Hume FC	7	4	0	3	32	27	5	12
7 FC Prahran	7	3	1	3	36	34	2	10
8 FC Essendon	7	2	3	2	32	32	0	9
9 Mickleham FC	7	2	1	4	28	39	-11	7
10 Brimbank FC	7	1	2	4	28	35	-7	5
11 Albert Park FC	7	1	0	6	29	43	-14	3
12 FC Carlton	7	1	0	6	20	58	-38	3

## Round 7 Results June 9

•6:30 Albert Park FC v Ashburton FC 4 - 8  
•7:15 Fitzroy FC v Pascoe Vale FC 5 - 8  
•8:00 Mickleham FC v FC Carlton 3 - 1  
•8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v Brimbank FC 5 - 3  
•9:30 Metropolitan FC v FC Essendon 9 - 7  
•10:15 Hume FC v FC Prahran 6 - 3

## Round 8 Clashes June 16

•6:30 Mickleham FC v FC Prahran  
•7:15 Ashburton FC v Brimbank FC  
•8:00 Albert Park FC v FC Carlton  
•8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v FC Essendon  
•9:30 Hume FC v Pascoe Vale FC  
•10:15 Metropolitan FC v Fitzroy FC FC

## Top Scorers

- 1.A.Redzepovic MFC 17 goals
- 2.L.Minopoulos FFC 15 goals
- 3.V.Mazurskiy BFC 15 goals
- 4.A.Stevanovic FCE 15 goals
- 5.F.De Moraes NMFC 12 goals

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NORTHCOTE CITY



0

RICHMOND EAGLES



1

## Match Details:

Northcote City: C.Theodoridis-Petropoulos, A.Chiappetta, B.Norton, A.Jankovski, N.Curtis, T.Rixon, H.Kinigopoulos (N.Tzoulis 84'), H.D'Agostino, Eddie Soares, J.Voulgaris (J.Kalafatis 65'), S.Nicholson.  
Yellow Cards: Rixon 11' Soares 34'  
D'Agostino 75'  
Red Cards: Nicholson 77'

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola, M.Ferrante, D.Tsiaras, J.Krncevic, M.Lujic (M.Bissinger 71'), D.Visevic, A.Kovacic, M.Catalano (P.Sawan 88'), T.Milardovic, S.Topalovic.

Goal: Lujic 54'  
Yellow Cards: Milardovic 43' Ferrante 58'  
Red Cards: None

Man of the Match: Michael Ferrante (Richmond)  
Venue: John Cain Reserve  
Crowd: 650

# Eagles swoop on top spot

By Mark Boric

**Saturday saw Northcote host Richmond in a fixture re-scheduled to the Queen's Birthday weekend after initially being postponed to allow New Zealand the use of John Cain Reserve in preparation for their World Cup warm-up clash with Australia.**

Richmond were without winger David Scullion, who has returned to Ireland, and injured left back Erhan Karahan, welcoming the return of Tom Milardovic from suspension. For the home side, Mark McGough, scorer of a sensational free kick in the 3-2 defeat of South Melbourne, was absent through injury, handing a starting spot to Harry Kinigopoulos. Cold conditions prevailed, but the pitch remained in great condition despite the recent rainfall.

The first minute saw Richmond have a goal disallowed by a very tight offside call, Jesse Krnecvic applying the finish from a Michael Catalano cross from the left. Two minutes later they threatened again, Milos Lujic running onto Michael Ferrante's ball over the top of the Northcote defence before having a shot blocked for a corner.

A heavy tackle by Jonathan Voulgaris on Dimitri Tsiaras saw him lucky to escape a booking in the fifth minute, with Tsiaras himself being spared a yellow card after bringing down Trent Rixon two minutes later. The card finally came out in the eleventh minute, when Rixon landed an elbow on Milardovic as the Eagles defender headed a long ball forward away.

Richmond had established an early ascendancy, and began creating some excellent goalscoring chances. In the sixteenth minute a cross from Catalano bounced off Krnecvic and fell to Lujic, who put a dif-

ficult chance wide with a first time strike. Two minutes later a glorious ball behind the defence from Visevic on the counter attack released Lujic who entered the box to face Chris Theodoridis-Petropoulos one-one-one before shooting wide of the near post.

A throw-in saw Krnecvic flick the ball on to Lujic who shot wide again. Steven Topalovic got forward, exchanging a pass with Catalano to race into the right corner and cross to Krnecvic, who put the ball wide from eight yards. Northcote put in a shout for a penalty for handball as a shot from Rixon was charged down in the box, but the Eagles maintained their momentum, with Visevic quickly forcing a save from Theodoridis-Petropoulos at the other end after breaking through the middle.

A first time volley from a long ball forward by Krnecvic went just wide in the twenty-sixth minute. A minute later he laid the ball off to Ferrante who shot at Theodoridis-Petropoulos from the edge of the penalty area. Bradley Norton overlapped to cross towards Rixon, who was blocked at the near post before play switched back to the Western End where Richmond had their best opportunity yet. Ferrante slipped the ball to Lujic who struck the post, the ball rebounding to Visevic on the edge of the area who shot through the crowded box, a defender kicking it off the line to keep the game scoreless.

Catalano had a cross headed away for a corner, but the final drama of the first half would occur when Milardovic was booked and a free kick awarded near the halfway line when Northcote would have preferred to have seen advantage played with Norton having the ball just outside the box. The half-time break arrived with the score surprisingly still 0-0.

Northcote began the second half in better fashion, a Voulgaris cross headed away for a corner two minutes after play resumed. From the corner Hayden D'Agostino struck the underside of the crossbar, the ball bouncing down on the line but not crossing it before being cleared, as all eyes turned to the assistant referee for a decision. A cross from D'Agostino saw Norton blast a shot over after picking up the knock down from Rixon.

Soon enough though, the Eagles began to regain control. Catalano volleyed just over at the far post after a corner from Visevic. In the fifty-second minute Krnecvic intercepted the ball and found Vicevic on an overlap to his left. Visevic brought the ball forward, rounded Adrian Chiappetta and broke into the box, squaring the ball to Catalano who shot at Theodoridis-Petropoulos from ten yards.

In the fifty-fourth minute Richmond finally found the goal to give them the lead. Andrew Viola had made a strong run forward, the ball eventually being delivered to Krnecvic who threaded his way down the left of the penalty area before pulling the ball back to the far post where Lujic was on hand to slam it over the line from a slight angle.

In the sixty-fifth minute Krnecvic cut in with a sharp turn and shot wide. For City Nick Curtis then shot over the bar from twenty yards. In the seventy-first minute Norton shot at Stjepan Gal from thirty yards. Both sides then turned to their benches. Voulgaris made way for former Eagle James Kalifatidis, whilst an injured Lujic was replaced by debutant defender Mitch Bissinger

A sliding challenge on Bissinger by Stuart Nicholson shortly after saw the recent

Northcote recruit shown a straight red card. A corner from Visevic saw Tsiaras head the ball back from the far post, Antun Kovacic challenging the keeper and heading onto the roof of the net from in close. Chiappetta then had a shot from ten yards deflected wide for a corner, as the game remained an open affair entering the closing stages. Catalano made a run down the left, crossing to Visevic at the top of the box who chipped a shot onto the crossbar.

In the eighty-fifth minute Topalovic stormed down the right and sent in a cross which Catalano stepped over to leave for Visevic at the far post, who flashed a shot across the goalmouth. Topalovic and Krnecvic immediately forced a turnover, and Krnecvic shot across the face of goal with a free Catalano better placed to his left. A minute later a free kick from Ferrante saw a long range header from Krnecvic almost loop over Theodoridis-Petropoulos on his goal line.

At the end of regular time an inside ball from Ferrante allowed Krnecvic a shot, which was straight at Theodoridis-Petropoulos. Into stoppage time a great tackle in the box saw Viola disposes Kalifatidis. Visevic chipped another shot narrowly over the crossbar before the full-time whistle signalled a 1-0 victory for the Eagles and confirmed the ascent to the top of the VPL table.

Northcote, who still hold fourth place, will next host Altona Magic on Saturday. Richmond travel to the improving Heidelberg United on Sunday. With just five points separating fourth through to twelfth on the table, every game on the run in to the conclusion of the season is set to be important.



Richmond goalscorer Milos Lujic works hard to get the ball under control. Michael Catalano is there to back him up.. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Northcote keeper Chris Theodoridis-Petropoulos launches himself at the ball to end Jesse Krnecvic's dangerous run. Harry Kinigopoulos (#11) and Hayden D'Agostino are there to support him. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



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**Match Details:**

**Bentleigh Greens:** Damir Salcin, Craig Smart, Sam De Vito, Con Anthopoulos, Alex Rojas, Adam Fadjevic, Tony Ouliaris (Craig Metcalfe 57'), Jack Webster, Johnny Sapazovski (Bradley Scott 77'), Dean Piemonte, Dean Fitzpatrick (Nicholas Schwal 80')

**South Melbourne:** Peter Zois, Rhodri Payne, Steven O'Dor (Eddie Cetkin 44'), Daniel Vasilevski, Joe Keenan, Gianni De Nittis (Hamid Basma 75'), Rama Tavsancioglu, Fernando De Moraes, Marinos Gasparis (Kyle Joryeff 60'), James Stefanou, Carl Recchia (Scorer: Fernando De Moraes 85')

**Man of the Match:** Joe Keenan  
**Venue:** Kingston Heath Soccer Complex  
**Date:** Friday 11 June 2010  
**Crowd:** 600

# South back to winning ways

By John Kyrou

South Melbourne FC has returned to winning ways after recording a 0-1 win against the Bentleigh Greens in wet and cold conditions in a VPL catch-up match at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex on Friday night. Fernando De Moraes' late winning goal proved to be the difference between the two sides and at the same time cemented the midfielder into the history books at South Melbourne.

Both sides had limited chances to open the scoring in the first half. Early in the game, Dean Piemonte's 25 yard goal-bound effort was tipped over the bar by South goalkeeper Peter Zois and the Greens also hit the post before Bentleigh's goalkeeper Damir Salcin made a great save to deny Daniel Vasilevski, who had shot from the edge of the area. South suffered an injury scare just before the halftime break when inspirational centre-half Steven O'Dor hobbled off the ground and was replaced by the ever-reliable Eddie Cetkin.

The heavens opened in the second half, with driving rain making smooth free-flowing football difficult to implement. South created several half-chances to open the scoring but a combination of poor finishing and the slippery conditions kept the scoreline at 0-0. Despite creating a few nervous moments, the South defence kept Bentleigh relatively quiet throughout the half and Zois will be most pleased in earning his fourth clean sheet of the season.

The winning goal arrived five min-

utes from the end, when De Moraes pounced on the ball on the left side of the penalty area and sent a curling effort beyond Salcin into the top corner of the goal. The goal entered De Moraes into South Melbourne FC history by putting him equal tenth with David Gorrie (on 44 goals each) in South's all-time leading goalscorers in League competition, a phenomenal effort considering his midfield position and that he still has several seasons ahead of him to move higher up the list. The goal also took De Moraes' individual tally this season to 9 goals, four clear of second-placed Gianni De Nittis.

South should have had a second goal via a Bentleigh own goal only a minute after De Moraes opened the scoring. Some clever moment on the right by South culminated in a low, hard cross to the back post that saw Bentleigh's Craig Smart's attempted clearance somehow bounce off the back post and roll across the goal line before eventually being cleared by the Greens defence. The full-time whistle was blown shortly after and South were back to winning form after the surprise loss to Northcote last Sunday.

The three points means that South has jumped three places on the League ladder to sit in sixth position, one point off the top five and with a game in hand still to play. Bentleigh also have a game in hand and sit only a point underneath South. Next Friday night, Bentleigh hosts Sunshine George Cross at Kingston Heath, whilst the next day South Melbourne FC travel to Green Gully Reserve to take on Green Gully in a match that could see South make significant inroads into the top five.



South captain Rama Tavsancioglu spins off Adam Fadljevic as he wins the header (and looks like he has the ball on a string)  
 PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Marinos Gasparis (left) and Tony Ouliaris clash in Friday night's match.  
 PHOTO:JIHN PUNSHON



Bentleigh's Luke Firzpatrick sends both the ball and Gianni De Nittis out of play.  
 PHOTO:JOHN PUNSHON

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VPL Standings Round 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Richmond Eagles	14	9	1	4	23	16	28
Oakleigh Cannons	14	8	3	3	24	15	27
Hume City	14	7	4	3	25	20	22
Northcote City	14	5	2	7	21	18	17
Green Gully Cavaliers	14	5	2	7	16	17	17
South Melbourne	13	6	4	3	24	16	16
Bentleigh Greens	13	4	3	6	16	24	15
Dandenong Thunder	14	5	3	6	12	20	15
Sunshine George Cross	14	4	3	7	15	26	15
Altona Magic	13	3	4	6	22	19	13
Melbourne Knights	14	4	3	7	18	21	12
Heidelberg Utd	13	3	6	4	21	25	12



VPL Round 15

Green Gully Cavaliers v N.T.C  
Wed 16 Jun KO 7:30PM DISC - Pitch 3

VPL Round 15  
Bentleigh Greens v George Cross  
Fri 18 Jun KO 8:30PM  
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex

Dandenong Thunder v Oakleigh Cannons  
Sat 19 Jun KO 3:00PM  
George Andrews Reserve

Northcote City v Altona Magic  
Sat 19 Jun KO 3PM  
John Cain Memorial Park

Green Gully Cavaliers v South Melbourne  
Sat 19 Jun KO 3PM  
Green Gully Reserve

Melbourne Knights v Hume City  
Sun 20 Jun KO 3PM  
Knights Stadium

Heidelberg Utd v Richmond  
Sun 20 Jun KO 5PM  
Olympic Village



VPL Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
South Melbourne	15	12	2	1	46	21	38	
N.T.C	16	7	6	3	46	26	27	
Oakleigh Cannons	15	7	6	2	36	25	27	
Richmond	15	8	2	5	31	22	26	
Northcote City	16	6	4	6	40	36	22	
Heidelberg Utd	13	7	1	5	23	19	19	
Hume City	14	6	3	5	32	25	18	
Altona Magic	15	5	3	7	19	26	18	
Bentleigh Greens	15	6	0	9	23	31	18	
Green Gully Cavaliers	15	5	3	7	21	38	18	
Sunshine George Cross	15	4	1	10	23	41	13	
Melbourne Knights	14	4	2	8	19	26	11	
Dandenong Thunder	14	1	3	10	14	37	6	

Catch-up:

Bentleigh Greens 0  
South Melbourne 2

Northcote City 0 Richmond 2



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